

BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL

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News Tidbits

>>Experts say to stop worrying about the Mayan calendar that foretells the end of days: the end of time is a long time coming. According to the calendar, the end of the 5,126th cycle (December 12, 2012) will mark the day of the return of Bolon Yokte, the Mayan god of creation and war. Yet experts on the working of the calendar condemn this theory as a fallacy, saying that December 12, 2012 will only end a cycle of creation, and then begin another.

>>After the nuclear meltdowns of Fukushima in Japan, scientists have begun to use monkeys to track radiation. A team of researchers at Fukushima University plans to fix collars around the necks of up to three wild monkeys, who will continue their lives while simultaneously reporting levels of radiation in the areas they travel. This information will be reported back to Fukushima University via GPS.

>>Nearly fifty percent of all Americans are living either below the poverty line or narrowly above it, says the 2010 Census. 49.1 million Americans are living below the poverty line, with 97.3 million with low income (which is defined as between 100% and 199% of the poverty line's value). This data comes from a new Census metric, which was designed to give a better grasp on the amount of poverty that actually exists in America.

>>Do you hate sitting next to the most annoying people while traveling in planes? Well, fear no more! The airline KLM allows passengers on their planes to share Facebook or LinkedIn profiles with other passengers on the plane. While KLM has not released information on whether or not they will charge a fee to use this service, industry observers have noted that this is the first attempt by an airline to implement a match-making system. And with statistics showing that eight percent of passengers admit that they have formed a romantic relationship while flirting on a plane, you might just meet that special someone!

Three-Day Arson Attacks at BLS



Typhoon in the Philippines

By B. KIM, I
NEWS EDITOR

As Typhoon Washi hit the southern Philippines from December 16-18 with winds gusting up to 56 mph, the death toll has reached 1,249. Landslides and flash floods drove tens of thousands to flee from their homes to higher ground. "Our death toll was based on the actual number of bodies that were brought to funeral homes in the two cities that were the hardest hit by the typhoon," said Gwendolyn Pang, the secretary-general of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC). Officials say they will continue to search for bodies.

Tuesday's fire to continue monitoring other hallways when a fire was started in the third floor boy's bathroom—once again in a trash barrel—across from the chemistry lab. Students left the building at 1:25, and returned to building at 1:45 after Mr. Flynn, armed with a fire extinguisher, singlehandedly put out the singeing flames. Students once again remained in R6 until dismissal.

Ms. Mooney Teta once again sent a call home to inform parents of another incident, that police presence would be greater still, and to encourage continued cooperation. Over the course of those three days, up to 120 students were either interviewed because they were out of their classrooms at the time of a fire, or because they came forward with their own information. Eventually, the combination of efforts from the Latin School administration and student body, the Boston City Police Department, and the Boston Fire Department resulted in the finding of a suspect tied to Wednesday's fire. That student was arrested later that evening.

"We are fortunate that our students care a lot about the school and about their education and safety," gleams Mr. Flynn.

The effects of the three day arson attacks will long outlive the not-quite-so-eternal flames. Lieutenant Flaherty spoke about the incoming security measures: cameras will soon be installed in heavily trafficked locations, along with a possible security entrance in the front lobby of the school. Whatever happens, there is no doubt that tales of the fires will outlast the flames themselves.

Although an average of 20 typhoons hits the Philippines each year, Washi is said to be the worst. "I have not seen anything like this before. This could be worse than Ondoy," said Colonel Leopoldo Galon, a military spokesman, referring to a 2009 storm, which flooded Manila, killing more than 400 people. Washi caught the people of northern Mindanao off guard as the region usually avoids the most extreme weather. Unexpectedly, the island became victim to the most ferocious storm to hit the area since the 1970s.

Cagayan de Oro and the nearby cities on Mindanao Island were the worst hit. "Our office was swamped with hundreds of requests to help find their missing parents, children, and relatives," said Pang, to reporters.

The floods hit as people were sleeping and entire houses with families were washed away in dozens of villages. Amor Limbago, 21, came home to the horror of her parents and seven other relatives having been swept away by the river. "I returned and saw that our house was completely gone," Limbago told the Associated Press. "There was nothing but mud all over and knee-deep floodwaters."

BY ALEX MACNEIL, II
& MARA WOLKOFF, II
NEWS EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Monday, January 9th, a fire was started in the girls' bathroom on the second floor across from room 207. The fire was started using combustible trash, such as paper towels and cardboard, and it was ignited in a trash barrel inside of the bathroom. A custodian, who reacted immediately by arming himself with a fire extinguisher, eliminated the flames and prevented them from spreading. At approximately 12:25 during fifth period, the fire alarm sounded and students were promptly evacuated outside of the building, where they waited for 15 minutes before being led back into the building.

Though there was no damage done at this point, the fire disrupted the daily schedule; students remained in their fifth period classes until the school administration was able to clear out the smoke in the bathroom. As soon as the fire alarm was tripped, the administration had no doubts as to whether or not the fire was an accident: it was deliberate. This was confirmed when the fire department's arson squad investigated the bathroom and found evidence to suggest that someone purposely ignited the trash barrel. The investigations into identifying a potential culprit began with researching attendance records to find anyone who was not where they were supposed to be.

Contrary to popular belief, Tuesday's fire involved no accelerants; the fire department's investigation found that it had been started in a large trash bin in the basement

and only involved the use of paper. The smoke from this fire quickly overtook the entire hallway, and ventured into the air vents, even reaching classrooms on the second floor. "I looked up and saw it lurking into my classroom—right in the middle of a lesson!" exclaimed Mr. Tompkins in room 237. The mass amounts of smoke excited the sprinklers in addition to the fire alarms, resulting in considerable water damage and yet another evacuation. It was this water damage, rather than rumors of "fire hitting the ceiling", that caused the most harm to the building. The second evacuation took place at 1:15, and students stayed in sixth period for the remainder of the day. With a pattern of arson developing, the school found it necessary to call homes and inform families in order to "request cooperation from both students and their parents in getting to the bottom of the situation at hand," says assistant headmaster Mr. Flynn. In addition, after school activities in the building were cancelled; in order to prepare the building for the following school day, the streets needed to be free of traffic.

In the interest of preventing a third fire, the Boston Fire Department increased security in the school: two officers were stationed at the school for the entire day—four in total once combined with the two Boston Public School Police officers that are always present at Latin. In the morning, there were at least six additional officers patrolling the school, as the arsonist was believed to be operating on the same rotating schedule. Unfortunately, police were too busy investigating the scene of

The Russian Presidency

BY ALEX MACNEIL, II
NEWS EDITOR

Mikhail D. Prokhorov, billionaire industrialist and owner of the New Jersey Nets basketball franchise, has announced that he will oppose Vladimir Putin in Russia's next presidential election.

Prokhorov announced his candidacy in a press conference on Monday, December 12. He had spent most of his time since September incognito after he was ejected from the Russian pro-

business party, Just Cause, amid political clashes with the Kremlin. Prokhorov had been hoping to run for the presidency in Just Cause, but after being thrown out, he remarked, "It is not in my nature to stop halfway, so for the last two and a half months we created all the infrastructure to collect two million signatures." (To run as an independent candidate in Russia, one needs at least two million signatures to be placed on the ballot.)

Besides Prokhorov, Aleksei

Kudrin was similarly removed from the Kremlin's inner circle after publicly disagreeing with Putin's political agenda. Wanting liberal reforms in the Russian political and social arenas, Kudrin is forming his own political party to oppose Putin. Kudrin and Prokhorov have similar platforms in their campaigns: to protect businesses, fight corruption within the government and begin proposing reforms in the Russian court system.

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NEWS

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

You'll notice in this issue that the Argo is starting to focus more on the stories that revolve around Boston and BLS. We still have plenty of articles about matters that are not directly related to the school, but we think that too many of BLS' stories go unnoticed. Some key events we've covered so far (that you might've even attended): the international economics summit at Gillette Stadium, a series of SWOT analyses with current seniors, both nights of the glorious holiday concerts. And with recent events (both good and bad), getting news out accurately and quickly has never been more important to us.

We want to use Argo to connect all students together, regardless of grade, interest, or background. Students should be aware of all the happenings of BLS and from now on, we hope to make the Argo one of your best sources for this information.

Don't think that we're completely doing away with world news and current events outside of school. If you think every BLS student should know something, then write about it! Whether that includes your opinion on presidential candidates or canoli is up to you.

While we're at it, we would like to recant for some errors that went unnoticed last issue:

Sorry, Vanessa Jarnes. You are not korean, nor is your name B. Kim. Those who have made the error would like to tell you that they are sincerely sorry.

Sorry, Alessia Spooney. We did not mean to exclude your article from the last issue of Argo. We have printed it in this issue so that everyone can see your lovely portrayal of the girls' varsity soccer team!

With that, we hope you enjoy the Argo's new direction as much as we do! And don't worry, the crossword will never stop being more interesting than whatever you're supposed to be doing in class.

Your Editors-in-Chief,
Bobby and Dominick

BLS: Old Dog Learns New Tricks

BY BOBBY FITZPATRICK, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Boston, MA- Most high school students are more than willing to tell one another the aspects of their school which they love and, more often, those which they hate. Rarely are students given the chance to voice their opinions to their school's administration, leaving their grievances unresolved. Last month, however, students did have a chance to tell the administration what they thought of Boston Latin School. Ms. Freeman, Mr. Doss, and Ms. Webster conducted the meeting of a diverse group of juniors and mostly seniors. After being split into three groups, each student was given a chance to voice their opinions of BLS, following the SWOT format—strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

At first, it was much easier to list the weaknesses of the decades old building, such as the archaic technology and, for lack of a better word, nasty bathrooms. As the conversation continued, the focus turned from banal complaints to what BLS does right and the great

resources it does have. After venting all this information, we picked which SWOT information was most important, so that the administration could see the true opinions of the student body.

The second part of this Boston Latin School betterment process was to share the opinions of each person affected by BLS, not just the students'. Parents, teachers, other staff members, and community members met with students in the dining hall after school so that all perspectives would be represented in the SWOT program. For further insurance that each representative group would discuss their opinions with each other, seats were assigned ahead of time so that each table was evenly mixed.

After some refreshments and time to break the ice, the meeting commenced. Peter Kelley, the head of the BLSA, started the meeting off, reminding us that we were all there to better the school that is so important to us. Together we reviewed the mission statement and the projected goals that each student should have after graduating BLS. These goals have been in place for years, and we understood that more goals could be added to ensure that BLS has

specific goals that are relevant in the today's world, and not simply those which applied to a now centuries old society.

Many goals were suggested, some more possible to achieve than others. But the point was not to only think of the possible. As Headmaster Mooney Teta stated, the main goal of the night was not to focus on what BLS can do within certain limitations, such as the ever-restrictive budget, but to think of the full potential of BLS and its students, unfettered by outside influences.

Among the most hopeful suggestions are to have every BLS student be fluent in a second language by graduation and have at least one travel abroad experience. But some suggestions were practical, even necessary. Not surprisingly, most attending agreed that BLS is in dire need to revamp its technology. But the suggestions themselves were not what was important. The simple fact that so many different types of people affiliated with BLS were brainstorming and agreeing on these propositions was what made this night so monumental.

Next time you think that the school is not trying to change and become a better environment, know this- it is.

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Boston Latin School Argo
2011-2012 Academic Year

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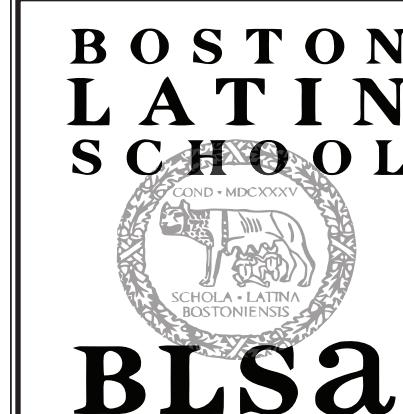
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Boston Latin School

Argo

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NEWS

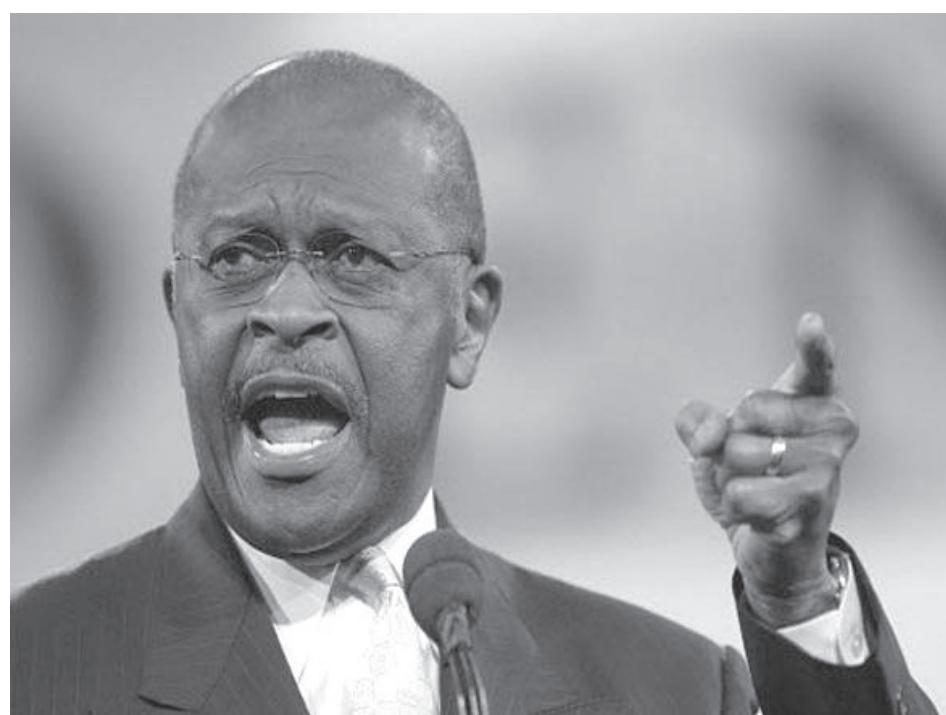
A Consensual Affair

By KENNETH TANG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Herman Cain, former GOP candidate for the 2012 election and CEO of Godfather's Pizza, was accused of sexual harassment and misconduct recently. Not once, but four times. The first victim of his poor judgment came forward in October. None of the accusations has yet been proven; however, Cain has openly denied all allegations. It is suggested that many backroom deals were struck in the courts, but there has been no disclosure as to what they entailed, except in some instances money was paid for nondisclosure.

The claims are all from cases years ago when Mr. Cain was a lobbyist for the National Restaurant Association (NRA) in Washington D.C. Since Cain was a presidential candidate, the media thoroughly covered this scandal and its development. Cain's campaign, however, was not impacted negatively. With all the attention, he received a sudden increase in financial support for his campaign. At the time when the scandal was first being covered, his lead in the polls was at its peak. At this point, people may already have started to lose faith in the simplicity of the 9-9-9 flat tax proposed to solve all economic problems. If there were such a panacea, one would have hoped Congress was already passing legislation for it.

Herman Cain might have been able to ride out the bad press in stride and lead a successful bid for presidency. Instead he decided to deny the allegations. He was reported to have said, "There's nothing else there to dig up. ...We have no idea the source of this witch hunt, which is really what it is."



THE INFAMOUS MR. CAIN

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The deathblow to his campaign was not another victim coming forth, but news that he was in a consensual relationship. On November 28, Ginger White told the press about an extramarital affair she and Mr. Cain had for 13 years. The relationship was ended shortly before Mr. Cain undertook measures to start his campaign. She also mentioned how Mr. Cain compensated her with money for her time and travel. Cain acknowledged that he did in fact finance some of her "month-to-month bills and expenses."

When news of this consensual relationship was made public, its effect surprised some people. Mr. Cain lost support. It was the news that two people could have a consensual relationship which caused the suspension of his bid

for presidency. In an early December Gallup poll, Cain had 16 percent of voters, a significant drop from his percentage in October. These statistics may show that some Americans would rather support a man who was improper towards women than a man in an extramarital relationship. If this is true, it should also spell doom for the current GOP candidate front-runner and two-time adulterer Newt Gingrich.

On December 3, Herman Cain announced that he would suspend his campaign. After touching so many people with both his words and actions, many voters will surely miss him. Through this ordeal, his wife appears to have been highly supportive. He announced, with Gloria Cain behind him, "I am at peace with my wife. And she is at peace with me."

College Application Process Woes



COLLEGE APPLICATION PRESSURE CAN REALLY PILE UP

into a position for college acceptances.

The high school transcript is extremely important during the selection process and is sometimes the deciding factor in determining who is accepted or rejected from a university. Carroll advises underclassmen to "...stick with it and do not give up no matter how hard BLS is. There are definitely going to be times when you're going to want to give up and maybe even consider switching to an easier school. But if you persevere and make it to the end, you're going to feel so good about yourself senior year."

Another senior agrees anonymously. "Even if you have a lot of work that you don't want to do, your high school transcript is still the most important thing in your college application, so just do it. You can't slack." While the majority of students understand the importance of earning good grades, the knowledge of this alone is not enough to achieve it. The desire to succeed in school may not even be sufficient either. Academic success relies on putting in consistent effort. Motivation is key to achieving academic success.

"Staying motivated, staying determined...if you can conquer that, you can be successful," says Ms. Zita Cousens, one of the many guidance counselors at BLS. "What is the legacy that you want to leave?" She recommends focusing on attainable goals – big and small – to keep motivated. Be it academic, athletic, musical or any other type of goal, having a clear purpose is a motivator in itself. Care, however, should be taken in setting reasonable goals. Otherwise, goals would be self-defeating and even act as a demotivator. Cousens advises that one should accomplish "the best a person can do... and present that to colleges."

By ALICE XIAO, III
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With winter vacation just over, most students are returning from their well-deserved time off relaxed and refreshed. During winter break, however, was a major date for seniors – January 1 – the regular college application deadlines. Boston Latin School is known for its academic prowess and successful college admittance, but what does it take for students to reach that standard?

For seniors that were faced with this tremendous task: it has taken a lot. "It was definitely hard for me at first...I was so afraid that I would make a mistake on my application, and I kept changing my responses to questions over and over again," says Kristina Carroll (I). This stress is normal – after all, BLS has been preparing its students for college since they were sixies. It is a process that allows the student to take a step back, assess their

work and even discover new things about themselves. It is a rite of passage for high school students. Although wondering whether one will be accepted or rejected after the application process can seem like daunting experience, it turns out to be less overwhelming than expected. "For the decisions, I'm not really nervous about them at all. I put a lot of thought into them... and I can see myself at all of the schools I applied to," says Carroll, reflecting on her experience.

How can younger students prepare now? For most of Boston Latin School's students, the college application process is still far off. That, however, does not mean they cannot get a head start on it and begin preparing for it. Time flies, and sooner or later it will be their turn. The best thing younger students can do to get a head start on their future is do their best in school and out. Focusing on academics and developing your passions and talents are the first and most important steps in getting

Featured Club: Hiking & Outdoors Club



MIRANDA MAHMUD (I)

The Hiking and Outdoors Club is a student organized and run club at the Boston Latin. At its core, it is comprised of students dedicated to getting outside, enjoying the pleasures of nature, and, most of all, having fun. It also presents itself as an opportunity for BLS students to build friendships and relationships outside of the halls of Boston Latin, so as to avoid placing additional stress on their already busy schedules. The club meets one Sunday each month: the Sunday, as well as the activity that will take place, is decided through voting (a process which occurs over Facebook). Members are also committed to keeping the expeditions MBTA-friendly, allowing all members to come to the club's activities, with or without a car. No attendance requirement exists for the club, so anyone is free to come and go as they please. There are also no requirements for eligibility in the club: you neither need to be an outdoorsy person nor have any experience: Diana Howat (Class II) loved hiking with the club, saying, "I'm not normally an outdoorsy person and I had never been hiking before, but the group was really supportive and I didn't feel awkward at all! I can't wait to go again!" The club "strives to be chill and relax so students can escape from the existing pressures at BLS," says club founder Miranda Mahmoud (Class II).

The Hiking and Outdoors club was started in the fall of 2011 by Miranda Mahmoud, with intentions to create a club where she and her fellow students could take time to get outside, meet other students interested in the outdoors, and have fun with one another without having to choose between other extra-curricular activities, as the club only meets once a month.

In October, the club met at Jamaica Pond to do yoga, and in November, members hiked the Chickatawbut Trail at Blue Hills. "We had a great turnout in the Blue Hills and felt a great sense of accomplishment when we reached the Chickatawbut overlook; it was a great time for everyone," says Mahmoud.

The club is currently voting on their December expedition, with ideas such as rock climbing, ice skating, another hiking trip to Blue Hills, exploring Singing beach, a brisk December swim, and possibly even a crewball match (an aggressive game created by former crew coach Gillian Curran).

If you have any interest in getting in touch with nature and your inner transcendentalist self, you can either find Miranda in homeroom 134, or email her at blshikingandoutdoors@gmail.com; but the easiest way to get in touch with the club and keeping up with their activities is to join the Facebook group (facebook.com/groups/blshikingandoutdoors/).

NEWS

Bans on Smoking

BY STEPHEN ZOULALIAN, II
STAFF WRITER

Bans for smoking inside public housing developments have been on the rise over the past six years. These bans call for no smoking inside or within a certain area of the building, and generally designate a specific area for smokers to enjoy their cigarettes. Maine will be the first state, come January first, to have all of its housing developments smoke free. Boston will follow shortly after as the biggest city to enact these bans. The growing knowledge of the harms of secondhand smoke as well as the 18,000 apartment fires each year caused by smoking have led to these bans. They were strongly encouraged by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2009. In 2005 only 32 public housing authorities had these smoking bans in effect. By the end of the year that number will have skyrocketed to 285 housing complexes with the bans. A report will be written by the end of the year by the federal Department of Housing stating the results from the ban. It will highlight how cities carried out the bans, success and failure stories, and finally how peoples have become healthier.

The smokers affected by this ban are nowhere near as vocal as the nonsmokers whose lungs are no longer be damaged by secondhand smoke. There has been an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from nonsmoking tenants on these bans. Secondhand smoke is the cause of 50,000 deaths each year in America. The

smokers, on the other hand, are outraged. Many have continued smoking in their apartments hoping not to get caught. Kevin Crocker, 55, of Portland, Maine, was reported by his neighbor for smoking and was fined. Crocker argued that it was unfair that smokers have to go outside at night and risk getting mugged to smoke. Most civil liberty groups don't back the smokers because of the vast number of negative effects cigarettes bring to the table. In fact, The

New England Journal of Medicine called for the ban of smoking in any building receiving public funding. This nationwide ban the journal calls for will not be put into law anytime soon, because of the families that could be evicted for smoking. Eviction for that reason seems to be unfair and would increase the number of homeless people in a time of economic struggle. In



MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE SMOKING OUTSIDE

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fact, eviction of tenants due to smoking are unusual, as the tenant either agrees to leave his apartment or, avoiding trial, settle in some other way.

Nikki McLean of Portland, Maine, claims that these laws discriminate against the poor. People who are living in public housing are 10% more likely to smoke than the general population. McLean who

has diabetes, arthritis, bad knees and a plethora of other chronic conditions now spends over ten minutes trying to get outside to smoke. Many have just accepted this new obstacle between them and their cigarettes. However, some have used this chance to give up the habit and take part in the smoking-cessation programs these housing developments provide.

Experience Through Trade

BY BOBBY FITZPATRICK, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Most classes learn about a subject, but get few chances to explore and experience what they learn about first hand. By learning only concepts and not seeing exactly how they are applied can dilute the learning experience. Last Wednesday, however, Mrs. Holm's Economics classes got a chance to see how Economics works and how it is applied, all by conducting their own economics experiment.

About one hundred of Boston Latin School's students participated in this world trade simulation. They joined about 2,000 other students from all over New England to create the simulation in a Foxborough convention center. Groups of four to five students had been formed before the event, each group representing a different nation. The purpose of the event was to simulate how international

trade actually is conducted in real life. With an already made economic plan, including various import, export, and monetary goals, the teams began the experiment. The event was compared to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, everyone continually trying to meet their detailed plans, all in a hectic rush. "We really enjoyed it. It was a really exciting to be active in a large simulation of the world economy with hundreds of students from all over New England. It was also pretty chaotic, stressful and tiring," says Daniel Mascoop, Class II.

After acquiring resources from the other countries, whether by making alliances with some countries, trading with as many countries as possible, or using corrupt methods, the world trade simulation aspect of the summit ended. Next, teams were given the chance to showcase their economic knowledge by competing in a geography quiz, economics test, and a

debate. In order to compete in the debate, however, teams had to qualify. BLS' very own New Zealand team, represented by Liam Conway-Pearson, Teo Swain Smith, Aisling Kerr, and James Naughton, was one of the few teams allowed to participate in the debate!

At the end of the summit, a winning team was selected, by adding up all of each teams' points and seeing which team had the most country. Points were awarded for performance on the geography quiz, table design, the economics test, costume designs, the economics debate, and overall performance in the trade simulation in relation to each country's projected goals. In the end, no BLS team walked away with the number one prize. But as Naomi Leonard positively put it, "Winning was not the purpose of the summit. The purpose was to learn more about economics, and even though not each team did not reach its projected goals,

the summit sure did."

In the end, income, a geography quiz, an economics test, an economic proposal, satisfying import goals, costumes and table displays result in an overall score. The country with the most points wins. This year, BLS won the summit debate, an accomplishment we have only qualified for this year. The BLS New Zealand team, represented by Liam Conway-Pearson, Teo Swain-Smith, Aisling Kerr and James Naughton not only won, but were the first BLS team to even qualify for the debate.

BLS's Ghana came in second for best costumes and Morocco was runner up for best table design. "We really enjoyed it. It was a really exciting to be active in a large simulation of the world economy with hundreds of students from all over New England. It was also pretty chaotic, stressful and tiring," says Daniel Mascoop, Class I.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENCY

Continued from page I

Both candidates are arising amid eruptions in Russia's political norm. On December 4, parliamentary elections showed Putin's party, United Russia, in first with slightly less than 50 percent of the total vote. Both middle-class citizens in Russia and international monitors condemned the results of these elections as fraudulent. They cited claims of United Russia's use of government resources to impede the ability of other parties to compete, while simultaneously using the same resources to bolster their own campaign. Furthermore, claims of stuffing the ballot boxes have also

been used by critics of Prime Minister Putin to condemn his campaign. Younger citizens also recorded videos of local and regional Russian authorities extorting their own subordinates into voting for United Russia. These came in tandem with pictures of similar activities at the polling stations on December 4. These condemnations spread wildly throughout the internet, and an explosive rally was held the following Saturday, which drew 40,000 Russians protesting the results of the parliamentary elections. Large riot squads, armed with heavy equipment, were deployed as protesters denounced Putin and called the elections invalid, demanding for new elections to take place as

soon as possible. One of Putin's spokespeople, Dmitry Peskov, cited that even when the "so-called evidence [of fraud]" is taken into account, "this only accounts for .5% of the total vote," which is not enough to alter the results of the election. Despite such reassurances, Gennadi Gudkov, a member of parliament and the liberal socialist Just Russia Party, has urged his party to reach agreements with both the Communist Party and the Liberal Democratic Party to refuse their newly elected seats in parliament, so as to force a new vote. Calling the election results "illegitimate both from the moral and political points of view," the Communist Party

TYPHOON IN THE PHILIPPINES

Continued from page I

Within 12 hours, Washi poured more than a month's worth of rain onto Mindanao.

Pang adds that most of the casualties were women and children. Top military officials flew to the region to

help with the search-and-rescue efforts. Coffins and body bags are said to be urgently needed, according to Benito Ramos, the head of the government's disaster-response agency. "It's overwhelming," he says. "We didn't expect these many dead."

According to the national disaster

agency, it may take up to six months for them to build temporary housing for the 60,000 people that have become homeless after the storm. Many stayed in school buildings for the meantime. And in terms of long-term housing, Richard Gordon, chairman of the Philippine Red Cross, says it is a challenge. "Right now,

what they are in need of is transitional housing," he said. On January 3rd, the people were moved out of the school buildings and into tent cities as classes resumed.

The United Nations is seeking \$26.8 million from donors to help provide victims with water and sanitation.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

State of Computers in BLS



BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL DESERVES AN A-

BY JAKE ZHANG, II
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Boston Latin is a school of many firsts. We are the oldest school in the nation, preceding even time-honored institutions like Harvard. Our first female graduate would also become the first women to earn a doctorate. However, many people don't know that BLS is also among the firsts in much more recent advances. Boston Latin is part of the Boston Public School system, which in 1998 became the first urban school district to connect all of its classrooms

to the internet. So almost twelve years later, how far have we come?

It is interesting to note how Boston Latin has changed alongside the evolution of technology. Some classrooms including the Electronic Classroom in the library feature SmartBoards, which function much like a white board but can also connect to the internet. The computers in the library and computer labs consist of a medley of outdated PCs of different models and makes. In the

art wing, sleek, new Apple computers sit beside their older abandoned Macintosh models. In 2008, BPS launched its Laptops for Learning initiative which provided teachers with newer dual-platform MacBooks. Each classroom is also equipped with a projector and slide, representing a shift in classroom instruction towards lectures supplemented by multimedia like powerpoints and video clips. Recent upgrades to the school's computers include the installation of Windows 7 Professional, one of the most recent operating systems by Microsoft, in the library's computers.

So how do we compare to other high schools? Within the Boston Public School system, BLS ranks among the highest in computer availability. In 2001, BPS reported one computer for every four students, surpassing most high schools at the time. Although Boston Latin boasts a high computer/student ratio, the accessibility of computers is somewhat limited. In recent years, the library has closed earlier after school due to a shortage of librarians, restricting the amount of time students can have access to the computers. The availability of computers in the library is essential for many students who may not own computers of their own or lack printing capability. However, the school has done well in using technology to supplement its curriculum within school hours. New computers in the science labs allows classes to conduct experiment simulations that are too dangerous

or cost prohibitive to conduct in reality. The language department makes use of language labs for interactive lessons that would be impossible if there was not a computer for every student. Other high schools have similar capabilities, however Boston Latin has been able to accommodate much larger number of students than most schools.

Maintaining such a large fleet of computers, however, requires many safeguards against abuse. Popular websites including YouTube and Facebook are banned although some argue for the potential benefits that YouTube could provide, including watching video clips that relate to the curriculum. Supporting such a large number of computers also bogs down the internet, although the school has made great strides in improving its internet capability by downloading Google Chrome and Internet Explorer 9 to its newest computers. A recent bout of vandalism of the library computers prompted librarians to cut off computer privileges for a week. Aside from isolated incidents, the student body has been remarkably respectful for our computers. With many high schools in the country that lack even basic technology, we are very fortunate to be supported by the city of Boston and our large alumni association in maintaining our computers. Although our computers have some faults, including censorship and accessibility, Boston Latin rivals wealthy private schools in technology.

Second Earth

BY ANTON XUE, IV
STAFF WRITER

We may have finally found a candidate planet that has a good likelihood of supporting life. In 2009, NASA launched the Kepler mission, in which the powerful Kepler Telescope would search for habitable Earth-like planets in the Milky Way Galaxy. Three days into the mission, a planet named "Kepler-22b" was discovered yielding promising results. Kepler-22b orbited its star, Kepler-22a, with a 290 day revolution, some 587 light years away. Kepler-22b is among some 2326 other candidate planets that the Kepler Telescope had discovered, but it is the most promising one so far. NASA officially announced the discovery on December 5th 2011 along with other discoveries made by the Kepler telescope. "It's right in the middle of the habitable zone," states Natalie Batalha, the Kepler deputy science chief, "The other exciting thing is that it orbits a star very, very similarly to our own sun."

Kepler-22b has a radius 2.4 times the size of Earth and because of this difference in mass, its actual composition may vary from that of a normal gas planet to

an earth-like planet, most likely a massive ocean with a rocky core, in which life may exist. Kepler-22b resides in what scientists call a habitable zone, in which it is within a certain band of distance from the star it is orbiting. Within this band of distance, the planet is capable of supporting liquid water, which is essential to all life forms known to us. A balmy temperature of 72 Degrees Fahrenheit further supports the possibility of life existing on Kepler-22b. However, the actual temperature may vary depending on whether or not the planet has an atmosphere, as well as whether or not it has an elliptical orbit, but scientists are optimistic, "It'll only take us 22 million years to reach it," states one enthusiastic Kepler scientist. Kepler-22b has an average distance from its host star, Kepler-22a, that is about 15% less than the distance from the Earth to the Sun, as well as a luminosity of about 25% less than the sun, which can impact climate on the planet as it orbits around its star.

However, Kepler-22b isn't the first planet to make headlines about the possibility of supporting life. Remember the old adage that for every cockroach you find, there could be 100 more hiding behind the walls? For the Kepler space



E.T. PHONE HOME?

telescope, Kepler-22b is simply the first Cockroach. There are still 2326 other candidate planets, some of which will turn out to be false positive, and Kepler-22b could still be one of them. Out of those candidates, 900 are less than two times the size of the earth, and 48 orbits within the habitable zone, up to ten could have

the magic combination of both - right in size and Earth-like. Whatever the result, Kepler-22b is a perfect example of what the Kepler Telescope's function is - sniff out possible habitable planets. There is definitely reason to think that Kepler-22b is simply the first of a deluge of discoveries in years to come.

SciTech Tidbits

>>Franky Zapata, a professional jet ski racer, develops an apparatus that allows the wearer to dive beneath and breach the surface of the water, much like a dolphin. Using water jets attached to the hands and feet, Zapata is also able to hover 30 feet in the air. (Popular Science)

>>NASA tests a 6-foot crossbow for use in future asteroid exploration missions. The current design, which produces 1000 pounds of force at 100 feet per second, would help tether a space craft to the gravity-less asteroid to collect samples from the surface (Popular Science)

>>Scientists in Oregon discover microbes living within a lava tube closely resembling conditions on Mars. The findings, which are supported by NASA, are an indication that organisms can live in low-oxygen, near-freezing environments such as Mars. (Science Daily)

>>A new fabric coated with titanium oxide, a component used in everything from paint to sunscreen, is found to be able to break down dirt and kill bacteria. Such technology has been proved before, but required large amounts of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The new fabric is able to achieve the same results using only the UV rays of natural sunlight, meaning the

fabric will clean itself when hung outside. (Science Daily)

>>The University of Hawaii discovers that suggestions of dumping alkali into the oceans to balance its acidity is unrealistic. As people spew more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, much of it is absorbed by the oceans, turning them acidic and threatening many organisms that inhabit them. Adding alkali like quicklime would supposedly reverse this process, however the University of Hawaii has discovered that such a solution would cost trillions of dollars and would not prevent Climate Change. (NewScientist)

>>The Audi A7 becomes the first

car to fully connect to the internet. The car is able to perform tasks like accessing Google Maps for navigation, looking up the weather and finding gas prices of local gas stations. For safety reasons, drivers will not be able to access sites like YouTube while driving, but since the A7 also generates its own Wi-Fi, any passenger can access the internet. (Popular Science)

>>Google Zeitgeist reports the top ten web searches of 2011. They are, in order, Rebecca Black, Google +, Ryan Dunn, Casey Anthony, Battle Field 3, the iPhone 5 (yet to be revealed), Adele, the Fukushima nuclear disaster, Steve Jobs and the iPad 2. (Google Zeitgeist)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

To See a World in a Grain of Sand...

BY JOHN ZHANG, VI
STAFF WRITER

What do the Internet and a grain of sand have in common? According to Discover Magazine, the approximate mass of all the information stored on the Internet weighs approximately the same as the smallest possible grain of sand. The Internet, since its conception in the early 1960's, contains everything from emails to cat videos. It is growing at such an exponential rate that its size doubles every five years, and it only has enough mass to fit in a grain of sand that is two-thousands of an inch across.

In order to calculate the mass of the Internet we have to understand how data is stored. Most forms of flash storage, such as a USB drive or a Kindle, store their information with a binary system that consists of 1's and 0's, where trapped electrons are used to differentiate the two. Because electrons have a mass, albeit a minuscule one, it is possible to calculate the weight of the Internet. A Kindle that is fully loaded with books gains around 10^{10} grams, which is in practice an almost impossible number to calculate, as the most accurate scales only go up to 10^{10} grams. The information stored on an eBook is so extremely minuscule that when its battery is fully charged the mass that it gains from that is one hundred-million times greater.

To find something that is as colossal and complex as the Internet we need to first start small. A common form of media on the Internet is the email. The average email that is 50 kilobytes will require around 8 billion electrons to be stored. A single electron has a mass of 2×10^{-30} pounds, thus a typical email will weigh around two ten-thousandths of a quadrillionth of an ounce. It turns out that email only makes up a small portion of the internet at an estimated 9% of all internet



traffic. Since the Internet doubles in size about every five years it is very difficult to get an estimate of all the information that is currently present. Just on the popular video-sharing site, YouTube, there is 48 hours of video uploaded every minute! Compare that to the mere eight hours of video every minute that had been uploaded in 2007 and you realize that the hours of video per minute has sextupled. Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google, has estimated that there is more than five million terabytes of information on the Internet. That is enough to play the movie Avatar in full 3D over 5000 times and store the song "My Generation" by The Who over six trillion

times (that's almost as much as the United State's debt)! The more surprising thing is that Google has only indexed 0.004% of the entire Internet! Using the model of a typical email, it can be calculated that the total mass of the Internet is... drum roll, 0.2 millionth of an ounce.

It is hard to imagine that something as massive and infinite as the Internet would have a mass that is so small. In fact, it is surprising that something like the Internet that is so abstract and has no tangible form can be measured in mass. Frankly, the "mass" of the Internet is really just a fancy number on paper that has no real meaning or purpose other than a

trivial fact that Alex Trebek might ask you on Jeopardy. It does, however, put into perspective the Internet that we take for granted every time we watch a video on YouTube, send an email via Gmail or update a status on Facebook. The internet has a strong influence on our society; it can spark revolutions that could be contained in something as microscopic as a grain of sand. Anything that you can possibly imagine is probably already somewhere on the Internet. The Internet is composed of almost every aspect of our world and as William Blake stated in his renowned poem Auguries of Innocence, "To see a world in a grain of sand..."

Taking Boston for a Spin

BY JAKE ZHANG, II
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

This winter the New Balance Hubway system will suspend its service. The shared biking system, which launched this year on July 28, is part of Mayor Thomas M. Menino's Boston Bikes Program which aims to promote biking in the city. The Hubway system has expanded to the Boston neighborhoods of Allston-Brighton, Fenway-Kenmore, Back Bay, South End, Beacon Hill, West End, North End and Downtown, including one station directly in front of Boston Latin School. In cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the MBTA, the program is also funded by grants from the federal government. The Hubway is also sponsored independently by New Balance and is operated by Alta Bicycle Share.

Shared biking has long been difficult to implement in cities, and Boston is one of the few cities to adopt such a system in the United States; others include Washington D.C. and Miami Beach. Shared biking is more common in Europe and Asia. Issues with theft and vandalism has long inhibited the adoption of shared biking systems which contribute to reducing a city's pollution. Problems with payment has also deterred users. The New Balance Hubway, however, has largely avoided such problems through several innovations. As opposed to directly renting a bicycle, Hubway users can pay for memberships at annual three-day and 24-hour intervals. Benefits of membership include 30 minutes of



THEY SEE ME ROLLIN'

winter due to Boston's notoriously icy roads.

Boston is infamously known for being one of the worst cities in the world for biking. Bicycling magazine rated Boston the worst in America three times, and the International Federation of Bike Messenger Associations (IFBMA) awarded the city with the first ever "Hall of Shame Award" (ouch). Will the Hubway system improve the city's reputation? It seems likely, since especially in a city that has more universities than most countries, Boston's dense campuses rely heavily on biking for transportation, increasing the demand for safer and more accessible biking routes.

How will the New Balance Hubway system affect the Boston community? Like many of our traditions and landmarks, it will eventually be something to be proud of since it is one of the few such systems in the world. Most sponsors are from the Boston area, including the Children's Hospital of Boston, Harvard University, Northeastern, TD Garden and the Prudential Center. Besides the obvious environmental benefits of having a large-scale biking program, it will also allow tourists to explore the city as well as supplementing our famed Duck Tours. In the long-term, the Hubway will likely make our city smaller as we discover more ways to explore Boston and its neighborhoods.

travel at no cost and a 25% discount for time exceeding that. Memberships are also paid by credit card, deterring potential theft. Utilizing new technologies like RFID keys, which use radio frequencies to identify an individual customer, the system is able to keep better track of its users. The Hubway bikes must also be locked into a kiosk in order to end the rental time, insuring that the bikes are secured for future use. The system also employs 600 bicycles at 60 stations to insure that users will have ready access to transportation.

The bicycle itself has employed numerous innovations to appeal to the user and to keep the rider safe. The bikes are specially designed to endure the abuse it will likely face in the chaotic city of

Boston. Plastic casing encloses the brake cables, protecting them from tampering and damage. Reflective sidewalls cover the front and rear tires, and LED lights powered by pedaling ensure that the rider can be seen both during the day and at night. For added comfort, the seat is fully adjustable and the step-through frame of the bike maintains a lower center of gravity, decreasing the likelihood of an inexperienced cyclist tipping over at a stop. The unique design is also instantly recognizable, which makes it harder to steal and resell. Of course, the responsibility for safety still rests mostly on the rider, who is encouraged to wear a helmet at all times (although rarely enforced). The Hubway is also temporarily suspended for safety reasons during the

FORUM

The Hub Not for Hubway

BY JANE CHUPRIN, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many of you may have noticed the gray and green bike stations right up the street from Boston Latin School. That station is just one of the many Hubway stations popping up all over Boston. City dwellers can rent a bike for a set fee, and then return the bike to any of the stations positioned throughout the city. The program has been gaining popularity ever since it started. In fact, it has been so successful that Hubway plans to further expand its program next spring.

It is no surprise that so many are enthusiastic about the Hubway program. Its college and hospital sponsors applaud its efforts to promote exercise and to lower obesity. Harvard, Northeastern, and Children's Hospital are just a few of its many supporters. On the other hand, residents like its convenience and relatively cheap costs. They can purchase both short-

term and long-term renting options with only a credit card, and then never have to worry about parking and storage. On top of all this, bike riding is environmentally friendly! The fewer cars used, the less fuel consumed. It's all good, right?

No; or rather, biking is fantastic, but not in Boston. A surplus of bikers on the roads is a major problem on the roads. Currently, there are no specified laws for bikers on the roads. They often zigzag among cars and run red lights. Not only must drivers keep their attention on the road, they have to be careful around these smaller, more vulnerable bikers. Even if a car was only going 30 mph, a biker could be seriously injured by a collision; and since Boston currently does not enforce stringent laws for bikers, they constantly change lines, run red lights, and aggravate other drivers.

To avoid traffic, some bikers ride on the sidewalk. This is not a viable solution either. The path is less

smooth than on the road, and bikers often collide with hapless pedestrians. Bikers on the sidewalk are a potential hazard to pedestrians, and bikers on the roads are a danger to themselves; so then, where should they go?

The obvious solution is bike lanes. It keeps them out of the way of pedestrians and drivers. Boston does possess a few bike lanes on major streets. However, cities like Brookline have many more than Boston does. It is easy to understand why. Boston's traffic is notorious, and the narrow, haphazardly laid-out streets aren't friendly to another lane (no matter how small it may be).

While these facts stand, Boston can not take a new influx of riders. The situation has significantly worsened since 2007, when Mayor Menino launched the Boston Bikes program. The number of bikers in Boston has doubled since then, a testament to the rapidly growing cyclist community in the city of Boston. Even our own

Mr. Osowiecki commute to school everyday via bike. With Hubway's expansion, there is no doubt bikers will only increase.

It's not that Boston's bikers cannot increase, but that before it can, Boston needs to make the necessary accommodations for them. It must enforce stringent traffic laws for bikers to decrease the number of collisions. It must add biking lanes, and it must increase awareness among drivers about bikers on the roads. Before Boston does that, Hubway's expansion will only mean more headaches for Boston residents. When bikers, drivers, and local lawmakers cooperate is when Hubway becomes a welcome addition to the city of Boston.



BOSTON MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT HUB FOR HUBWAY

Turn Off the Streaming Music

BY NHU LE, II
FORUM EDITOR

There was a time when music listeners were tied to the mainstream and the major labels, which limited the ways one could enjoy music. Since streaming music websites like Napster and Pandora were created, music lovers have been able to explore musical artists nationally (and internationally) whenever they want! This is generally thought of as a good thing, but the music labels seem to have had a very different reaction.

A few weeks ago, a study conducted by NPD Group and NARM suggesting streaming music hurt music sales was released. Shortly after, British Indie distributor STHoldings withdrew the music of over 200 independent labels from streaming music sites like Spotify, Napster, and Rdio. When attempting to explain their decision, they cited the fact that most of their labels believed that it was undercutting their brand and revenue. Their reason for this is simple: consumers are deterred from buying the music, because it is being marketed (and "exploited") as a low value commodity. This is incredibly short-sighted of them.

It is true that this study joins continually amassing evidence that streaming music sites do deter people from

buying music. 37% of music fans and 46% of casual fans admit that because they can stream music online, they feel less of an urge to buy it. The question is whether the sale of music (whether through the sale of physical CDs, or online singles) will pick up with this action.

Independent music labels in fact have to thank streaming sites most. Before streaming sites were created, very few individuals were aware of their music. Since these sites often allow one to search music based on what one already likes, and listen to that music without paying, musicians belonging to independent music labels have broadened their fanbases substantially. Their music, once limited, is now accessible to anyone. Perhaps some are less inclined to buy, but because so many more people are listening, the number of people buying their music should still rise. Even more importantly, the musicians' music is reaching more people. Isn't that what musicians should want?

Then, there is the implicit assumption by STHoldings that if their music is pulled from these websites, they can return to the business model of the past. That is, they believe they can make their revenue strictly through sales; but that time is gone and the model is now obsolete. If people cannot listen to the labels' music on streaming sites, they will

go to illegal websites. When compared with the alternative, streaming music sites are much more preferable. They are legal, and will actually honor the terms of the labels. More importantly, they offer a modern, sustainable business model – streaming revenue as opposed to sale revenue. Every time someone listens to a song, on a legal website, the distributor and label are paid. Certainly, they are paid very little, but they are paid each time someone listens. The companies do not have to operate at a loss, especially if they renegotiate with the websites.

STHoldings is not the only one who has taken this action. Mainstream musicians like Coldplay and Lady Gaga also recently refused to allow their albums to be streamed when they were first released. This is despite the fact that as mainstream artists, they would have gotten a lot more streaming revenue than musicians from independent labels. This is definitely a trend, but not a beneficial one for the music industry. To put it simply, companies like STHoldings are cowards. If they can move away from the business model they have perfected ever since records were invented, and meet the new reality of the music world, they can take advantage of the new opportunities available and stay competitive. If not, they will be left behind like the Walkman and 8-track.

Spotlight
Rebecca Park

BY ESHÉ SHERLEY, I
ANNIE McDONNELL, I
& CRISTINA MARCILLO, I
STAFF WRITER & CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Disrespectful. Lazy. Pretentious. Unintelligent. These are the words that describe Rebecca Park.

Well, that's actually not true; we thought she'd get a kick out of someone using a negative adjective to describe her once in a while. Rebecca is probably best known as a committed activist—dedicating countless hours to the environment as the co-president of Youth CAN; but there's more to this girl than meets the eye. Park is a "Jill" of all trades (hope you appreciated the feminist play on words we used there!). If she isn't spending her time huddled around a computer in o25, she is singing and dancing her heart out in show choir (we see you, girl!), performing in the local acting troupe Freelance, or learning the complexities of her Jewish heritage at Hebrew School.

The best thing about Rebecca is that she's always open to sharing, whether it be her creative prowess, her "heaven bread" (her mom's challah is so good!), or the ridiculous repository of facts and analytical ability that is in her mind.

From firsthand experience, we can testify to the fact that Rebecca is an extremely studious person. Whether she's starting up a class discussion or posing questions drawn from her boundless curiosity, Rebecca proves herself to be both a brilliant thinker and a sinkhole for some of the world's most esoteric governmental, musical, theatrical and Jewish knowledge. Spend ten minutes with Rebecca Park and you will walk out a more intelligent person; and if you catch her during Spanish class, you will even get to meet her sassy alter ego, Rebecca Parque.

Rebecca is not only a sassy Spanish ingénue, but also a proud political buff. She is the type to proudly declare (as she did on November 8) that she was the first person in her precinct to vote. Mind you, this was a city council election, which no one ever votes in. However, Rebecca's love of politics is firm, and she has attended a myriad of political events, including the Obama inauguration. This love of politics is closely related to Rebecca's 18 year love affair with history—which we have often bonded over.

Besides creating alter egos and wowing the world by knowing the date of every local, state and national primary election, Rebecca also spends her time doing normal teenage activities: shaking hands with Al Gore, posting friendship pictures with Senatorial candidate Elizabeth Warren and talking environmental policy at the French embassy before celebrating her 18th birthday on a dinner cruise on the Seine River.

In other words, Rebecca's really not that big of deal.

But really, she's just the kind of person you want in your corner. She's got brains, a compassionate heart and an ever-helping hand. She's truly a unique friend, and our experience at BLS has been better just because we've known her. We wish you all the best in everything you do and *we love you*.

FORUM

Put Value in Evaluation

BY TERRY NI, V
STAFF WRITER

At the end of the last school year, BLS students had the opportunity to assess their teachers. For a portion of each class, everyone filled out a survey that looked like a formal exam, with bubbles and written answer blocks. Although these surveys were a good step towards incorporating student feedback on teachers, they quickly became tiresome, especially for students who were writing long comments and giving helpful suggestions—all this effort for a teacher who may not even pay attention to these surveys. Therefore, instead of making students evaluate all teachers, why not just evaluate the new teachers at BLS this year?

There are several benefits to this scheme. The first is that it would be more efficient. Most students would put more effort into their responses, because they would not be tired of them by R7. Teachers would see more helpful and honest remarks, because students would actually ponder their answers. This will hopefully lead to more change in a teacher's behavior or make the evaluations more important to administrators when making executive decisions. Put simply, the evaluations would have more value.

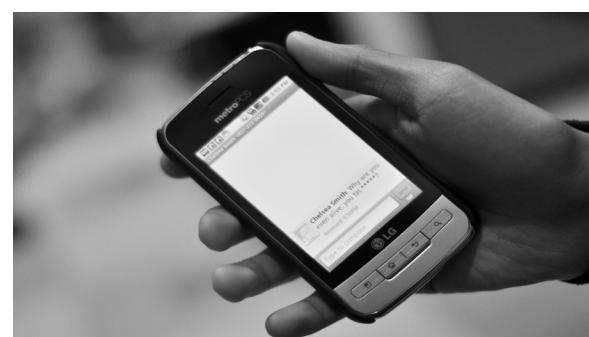
Cyber-bullying Not OK

BY MARGARET SULLIVAN, VI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Cyber-bullying. The cause of depression, pain and suicide.

By definition, cyber-bullying is bullying through email, instant messaging, chat room exchanges, Website posts, or cellphone texting – basically, any form of bullying through electronic means.

The issue has recently become a hot topic among educators, students and parents. The Respect Initiative is currently addressing the issue at Boston Latin School, but the majority of BLS students react to it like most teens do. When teens get a lecture about cyber bullying, they think that it could never happen to them, or that it could never



CYBER-BULLYING AT WORK

happen in their school.

The truth of the matter is that ten thousand people are cyber-bullied every day. There is in fact a good chance it might be you, or someone you know. A major cyber-bullying incident may not be known throughout Boston Latin School, but it can happen.

Cyber-bullying makes me want to throw up just thinking about it. For the bully, who may only be venting, it is a minor incident. He or she often goes on with life, carefree when thinking of his/her "hilarious comment." For the bullied, however, a comment can ruin their life as it spreads across the internet for everyone to see. It can drive a person to kill themselves – and it has.

If we were to select a core group of teachers to evaluate, why should we choose the new teachers? It is because they are likely to change. They have not yet become cynical about student evaluations and would be more open to feedback. As new teachers, they would also be more willing to try the new teaching method suggested to them in the surveys. After all, nearly everything else is new to them. When teachers have taught for many years, they often go through the same lesson plans every year. We all know teachers like that at BLS. They act this way because they falsely believe these lessons must work, as they've been using them for many years. Many of these lessons, however, could certainly be improved upon. If new teachers get student feedback early, they could formulate better approaches before they fall into tradition.

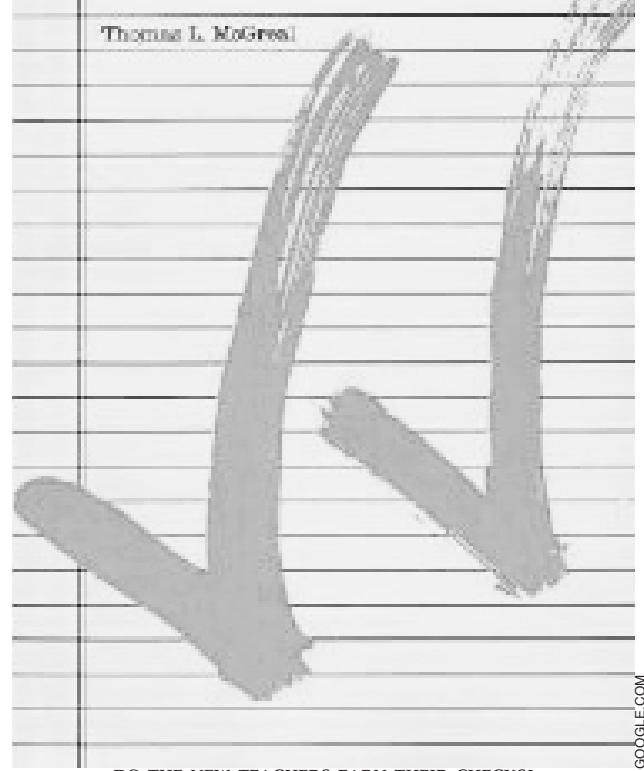
Student evaluations of new teachers would also be very valuable to administrators. In Boston, newly-hired public school teachers have a two-year probation period. After these two years, the teacher gains "tenure," an employment protection that makes it significantly harder to fire him or her. If a teacher proved to be incompetent in their early years of teaching but the problem is not noticed until after two years, the teacher would likely remain

at our school. If students were to evaluate these new teachers, administrators could incorporate the results when making the decision to permanently hire these new teachers. Right now, our voices aren't being heard when administrators hire new teachers. They ought to be. After all, as the ones who experience their teaching every day, students ought to be the best judges on how well they would do here long-term. Maybe then BLS won't be saddled with ineffectual teachers anymore.

With this new evaluation system in place, Boston Latin School would save not only time and paper, but also would increase efficiency and effectiveness. Students would generate more valuable comments for teachers more open to using them and for administrative decisions that need more student input. Even if the information wasn't used to fire teachers, it would still make the school a better place to learn at. As

Successful Teacher Evaluation

Thomas L. McGreal



DO THE NEW TEACHERS EARN THEIR CHECKS?

GOOGLE.COM

teachers come and go, the system will improve the quality of our teachers, and students will have gained a voice in their education. There's nothing to dislike.

Books Not Bombs

BY OONA CULLEN, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This year, the United States appropriated around 700 billion dollars to the Department of Defense. Of this 700 billion, 21.2 billion dollars went to "Atomic Energy Defense Activities". The Department of Education was appropriated 69.9 billion dollars.

Clearly, there is a problem here.

America is arguably the largest military power on earth and currently has upwards of 8,500 atomic warheads stockpiled—enough power to blow up the world several times over, yet we continue to spend 21.2 billion dollars on Atomic Energy Defense Activities.

The fact that we, as a country, care more about stockpiling weapons than about the future of our country's children cannot be tolerated. The fact that we spend billions more dollars on our military than on anything else is not something that the American people can continue to support. Education is facing enormous cuts. Who can forget Boston Latin School's budget crisis several years ago? Although Boston Latin School is currently out of danger, the emergency continues across the nation. Teachers are being fired. Standards are dropping. Schools are closing.

Something must be done. Something could be done, if we would shift our focus away from weapons, manufactured purely to demonstrate our military might, and onto children, their education, and the things that they need to succeed. If we can do this, perhaps the problems we face now and will face in the future could be more easily solved. Perhaps if we redirected a couple billion dollars from military defense to education, we could afford to fix some of the things that are broken within the country, rather than outside of it.

It cannot be denied that some spending on defense is necessary. There is no way, however, that there needs to be this much spending on one aspect of

government. The money is wasted on furthering atomic development, which is not only dangerous to develop, but also completely unnecessary. The United States has hundreds of atomic bombs at its disposal already. Still, we spend millions to continue developing them, and then spend millions more attempting to stop other countries from making them. It's hypocritical and useless. There comes a point when we must realize that if an all-out nuclear war were to break loose, having a lot of bombs would not save us. We would only get blown up in the process of blowing up someone else. The stockpile we have is only a scare tactic, a quiet threat to the rest of the world that we are not to be messed with. Why do we continue to gather more and more bombs while 60 percent of American eighth graders read below their grade level, and only 70 percent of American teenagers graduate high school?

Education is part of what makes us human. Education is what enables us to think and reason and record our history, opinions and ideas. It gives us opportunity and encourages ingenuity. It pushes our country forward, which is something we desperately need in this new global world. Without it, we would still be stuck in the Stone Age. Without it, we might soon fall behind quickly rising countries like China and India. Yet we do not truly value its importance. We do not spend enough on it.

In 2010, American students ranked 25 in math and 17 in science when compared to students in 34 other industrialized countries, and yet we consider ourselves to be the best and the brightest. If we do not place more serious emphasis on education in this country, we will fall behind. We are on a crash course to becoming obsolete. Something must be done, before the US internally implodes trying to protect ourselves from external threats. The only solution is to stop pouring taxpayer dollars into weapons we will never use, and instead into schools, where it is desperately needed.

FORUM

Should Plan B pills be sold to minors?

*Pro*

BY AMY TRANKIEM, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Years have gone by, but our conservative society is still the same. Why can't the United States accept the fact that technology and scientific advances are out to help people, not to harm them? The safest way to prevent unwanted pregnancies and to guard against sexually transmitted diseases is to be abstinent. The second safest way is to use a condom and a form of contraceptive. Contraceptives, however, are difficult for teenagers to get because they require a prescription. Therefore, the next best option is the morning-after pill, also known as the Plan B pill. This pill is 85 percent effective at preventing unplanned pregnancy if one takes it in the first three days after sexual intercourse. However, in most states, it is only available to people 17 or older. For teens 16 and younger, a prescription is required.

The Plan B pill is there to support everyone and to help them at all ages. There is no standard age to have sexual intercourse. In the U.S. alone, seven out of ten teenagers will have had sexual intercourse by their 19th birthday. People, however, do not suddenly start having sex at 19 years old; they begin at a much younger age.

Teenage girls deserve as many ways as possible to prevent an unplanned pregnancy. 750,000 teenagers from 15 to 19 become pregnant each year in the U.S. To state the obvious, this number represents an enormous percentage of young girls. These numbers, however, could have been lowered drastically if Plan B was readily available for younger teens. The U.S. consistently has the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the entire world. U.S. pregnancy rates are twice that of England and Canada and eight times that of Japan and the Netherlands. Statistically, both the U.S. and Europe have the same rates of sexual intercourse among teenagers. In Europe, however, contraceptives, condoms and birth control are more readily available than in America. Doesn't this tell Americans anything?

Some argue the act will dissuade conversations with parents and encourage teenage sex. Have they even considered that a younger teenager might be raped? If a girl who did not use birth control was raped without a condom, what is she going to do about her risk of getting pregnant? Working at the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, I know that most teenagers are more afraid of their parents knowing they were raped than the fact that they were actually raped. In these cases, protection like the Plan B Pill is absolutely necessary, as it prevents unwanted pregnancies without forcing girls to disclose before they're ready.

The Food and Drug Administration has declared that Plan B is completely safe for teenagers 16 and under to use without a prescription. However, Kathleen Sebelius, the Health and Human Services Secretary, overruled the FDA's stamp of approval. President Obama agreed, saying, "I think most parents would probably feel the same way." The FDA already approved Plan B for use by younger teenagers. Among our government agencies, the FDA is one of the more cautious. If the FDA approves the pill, then what other proof does Sebelius and the rest of American parents need?

Perhaps she simply couldn't wrap her head around the fact that teens are smarter about their bodies than most people think. Like most adults, Sebelius is perpetuating the silence on teen sexual activities in society. Sex is one of the largest topics students and teachers must tackle in every high school. It doesn't matter where you are—sex is everywhere. It is in newspapers, television, magazines and all over the internet. Forbidding these emergency contraceptives to teens may sooth delusional parents, but it will only result in more unwanted pregnancies.

We live in the 21st century. Adults need to accept the fact that teenagers do have sexual intercourse—it's been that way since the start of humanity. The only difference now is that we have an additional way to protect ourselves. Do adults really want to take that away from us?

Con

BY JAMES PHILIOSSAINT, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At least 750,000 teenage girls in the United States become pregnant every year. This number is rising annually. This reveals the answer to the recent debate over whether emergency contraceptives should be available over the counter: No.

The United States currently sells to those seventeen or older three main emergency contraceptives without prescription: Plan B, Ella and Next Choice. Proponents argue that since minors will have sex, they ought to have the tools to prevent unplanned pregnancy. They do not, however, take into account the possible repercussions. Today, the average American female becomes sexually active at seventeen. The current age limit now gives the majority of American females access to these emergency pills when they need it.

The accessibility of these contraceptives will only encourage them to engage in under-aged sex, as teens will do it more often if they believe that they have drugs available to them to prevent pregnancies. It will also increase the number of teenage couples who have unprotected sex. Both males and females report that having sex without a condom is much more enjoyable than having sex with one. If more minors are having sex and using emergency contraceptives as a fallback to not using a condom or other forms of birth control, one could assume that there will be an increase in teenage pregnancies.

No one is going to argue that more teenage parents is a good thing. The average American way of life does not support anyone below eighteen having children. As minors, they simply do not have the necessary funds to properly raise a child without losing out on their own education. Teenage pregnancies end up harming both the child and the parent. Surely, one should not act in a way that will encourage this state of affairs.

This correlation is not simply hypothetical. Some states like California and New Mexico allow women of all ages to purchase emergency contraceptives. New Mexico and California are "coincidentally" also among the ten states with the highest rates of teen pregnancy. This information suggests that teen pregnancy occurs more frequently in states where emergency contraceptives are more easily available.

This is a perfect example of the cons outweighing the pros. When a person considers making decisions such as these, the well-being of all—and not just a few—should be considered. While it may prevent some from having a miscarriage, abortion, or an unwanted child, it will in fact only increase the prevalence of these issues throughout society.

Making emergency contraceptives only available to minors with a prescription also has its own pros. It encourages interaction with parents and health care providers about their child's sexual activities. It can open a discussion, and maybe discourage a repeat of a situation where she has to use an emergency contraceptive. This method in the end is much more viable and beneficial than making it available for anyone, regardless of age.

Instead of making emergency contraceptives more available to the average teenager, focus should instead be shifted onto sexual education in schools. Currently, according to the Foundation of AIDS Research, comprehensive sex education is discouraged by federal mandates prohibiting federal funding for programs. These will educate youth about the benefits of condoms and contraceptives. As a result, schools generally only provide abstinence-only programs, which have been shown to be ineffective. If more teens were aware about the consequences of early sex, there would be less need for emergency contraceptives. Kids that use it will be more aware of the negative consequences. Until then, teenagers should not be able to buy the Plan B pill. Instead of giving teens another way to dodge pregnancy after sex, increasing awareness is ultimately more beneficial. You can say you helped a man when you gave him a gun to fight a war, but you can say that you saved a man when you stop the war.

Forum Question

Should Plan B pills be sold to minors?



"Yes, no one should be forced to expose their private life to others."

-Thi Tran, I



"Yes. It is a personal decision that you should be able to make on your own."

-Marina Adario, II



"Yes, because having that option will prevent pregnancies for minors."

-Grace Styklunas, III



"No, because legally, minors aren't supposed to have sex anyway."

-Sean Cheatum, IV



"I don't know. I don't think you should need pills to protect that. They should be more careful instead."

-Clio Shaw, V



"Yes, they should take the pill so that they don't have the great responsibility of raising babies."

-Victor Langone, VI

The Omnipotent Hewolf

Dear Omnipotent Hewolf,
Your nom-de-plume used to be She-wolf, but now it's Hewolf? Are you not the same omnipotent being? Is there some drastic anatomical change you've made recently? I used to trust you for all of my most personal quandaries, but now I feel betrayed. I don't know if I can trust you anymore (S)Hewolf! I don't even know who you are!

Sincerely,
Who Can I Trust Anymore?!

Dear Who Can I Trust Anymore,
I assure you, I am only slightly different than Shewolf. Shewolf just needed to move on to bigger and better things, in Cambridge, MA. She said something about taking her knowledge to the Crimson. But that's besides the point. I have the same omnipotence as Shewolf, and you should have no problem seeking my advice. In my opinion, I think I give even better advice than the Shewolf, so you should be excited, not worried!

P.S. I don't know if you can consider what you had with Shewolf trust. You always sign your questions under a new name. Maybe you should get a therapist if this isn't working out?

Dear Omnipotent Hewolf,
I was going to moderate a debate later this month for the Republican candidates, but now no one wants to come or watch it! I was so excited to be on live TV for two hours... Umm I mean I was so excited to showcase all of the wonderful ideas of the Republican candidates. Is there something wrong with me? Why wouldn't people want to watch me ask questions? I have a lovely, condescending voice!

Sincerely,
My Hair is Not a Wig

Dear My Hair is Not a Wig,
People don't want to watch a debate in which you moderate, because you would try and steal the spotlight with your blonde toupee and preteen wife. Let's be honest, you have a whole show based around the premise that you are a very demanding boss and love to patronize others before pompously telling them that they're "fired." I don't think that sounds too appealing to the Republican candidates. Just stick to what you do best: starting fights with Rosie O'donnell.

Dear Omnipotent Hewolf,
I wasn't nominated for a Golden Globe! How can the anyone tell me that I am not good enough for a golden trophy? I act superbly! No other actress could have portrayed the love interest of a vampire as well as I have! Also in the latest movie I am pregnant! We all know that pregnant teens get nominated for Best Actress (I'm looking at you Ellen Paige!). And not only do I play a pregnant teen, but an ailing pregnant teen, dying because she is impregnated with a vampire fetus that is killing her! How is that not Golden Globe material? I call conspiracy!

Sincerely,
As Beautiful as a SWAN... Until I Get Pregnant with a Vamp Fetus

Dear Kristen Stewart,
I know that you think you did a great job in the Twilight movies, but let's be honest. The dog in Marley and Me did a better job at conveying human emotion than you did. Also who in the world could take that role seriously? When was the last time Meryl Streep played the baby momma of a monster? The only advice I can give you is to hire a new agent if you ever want to be considered for some awards other than Teens' Choice.

FORUM

Black Out, Black Friday

BY MING YING, V
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As people across the United States enjoy the holiday season, the thrifty and affluent alike are turning their heads towards the irresistible advertisements of retailers. Across the nation, holiday savings are heralded through an incessant stream of emails, junk mail, commercials and magazine articles. But braving the dark seas of Black Friday can be difficult and, even more importantly, foolish. Before natural instincts to pore over ads for the biggest savings kick in, pause. Refrain from thinking about just savings; think smart. Will scouring advertisements one at a time really reveal the hidden treasures, or is preparing for promising deals simply a waste of time?

Without a doubt, some Black Friday deals were unbelievable when compared to their previous prices. Many of them, however, are simply devious dumping schemes. Electronics are some of Black Friday's most discounted items. They are also, no surprise, the most likely to become obsolete in the future. A consumer might think he or she is getting a good deal, but the retailers are simply getting rid of large quantities of merchandise before their value depreciates. Electronics in particular are constantly replaced by sleeker models with price tags similar to older ones, if not even cheaper. Never forget that you may not be getting your money's worth. Every sale sticker may in fact be disguising a new shipment arriving in three weeks.

And even if the deals are as incredible as advertised by the retailers, are they worth the danger one might face? Radios

announce the inevitable after every Black Friday. This year, innocent customers were pepper-sprayed by a lady keen on getting the best deal, eager shoppers chose to grab doorbusters over helping a man dying on the floor and unfortunate bargain hunters and hapless employees were trampled by a human stampede.

But the shocking truth to which most people can relate is not these grotesque incidents but the common hardships people face for Black Fridays. Since discounted items have limited quantities, thousands have found a primitive solution. They camp outside a store the night before Black Friday in the frigid cold, sleep on a filthy concrete floor and risk catching a cold and hypothermia—among other diseases—in an endeavor to save a few dollars. Many in the crowds huddled in parking lots may not be insane or stupid, but they certainly lack sound judgement.

These extreme actions are even more preposterous when one considers that the internet has made Black Friday obsolete. I myself know of some families who wake up before midnight to save money on a television or a GPS, only to sleep through the remainder of the day and wake up to find an even better deal on the internet. Retailers argue vehemently that the reduced prices of Black Friday and the holiday season are one-of-a-kind, but that is simply untrue. Deals are no longer scarce, and frugal customers can enjoy a daily supply of sales if they shop



SMART SHOPPING OR BORDERLINE CRAZY?

smartly. In the modern age, the evolution of online shopping and shipping has superseded the Black Friday phenomenon. When compared with the "every day is Black Friday" online shopping culture, the tradition of shopping the day after Thanksgiving seems primitive at best.

Of course, not everyone shops fanatically on Black Friday. Some just go for the excitement, the fun. But if there really must be a day designated for shopping, why can it not be Cyber Monday (the Monday after the Thanksgiving weekend)? One still gets to feel the excitement without the danger. Why should someone forfeit his or her vacation when the same bargains can be safely, quickly and more conveniently purchased online on Cyber Monday?

Every year, exaggerated celebration and excessive marketing by the industry keep the name of Black Friday renowned; but for the rest of us, it is plainly a waste of time and energy, a convenient roadblock in the path of a contemporary shopping experience. Black Friday deals? Meet a new era. New era? Say farewell to Black Friday.

We Can't Wish You a Merry Christmas



BY MICHAEL SITCAWICH, II AND
EMMA HENDERSON, II
STAFF WRITER AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Recently, the Christmas season has been a time of controversy among Americans, characterized by fierce debates about its political correctness. Because Christmas stems from Christianity, political recognition of the holiday has been considered insensitive to other religions, as it demonstrates religious favoritism in a country that is supposedly impartial to creed. In some respects, this rise of political correctness is understandable. For example, nationwide attention was recently attracted to an incident in Arkansas where the superintendent of a public school refused to take down a display of a Nativity scene on the school campus. This form of blatant bias is simply unacceptable, since public institutions should not support any specific

religion and ultimately neglect others. Situations like this one, however, should not provoke superfluous fury over minor occurrences that come with the holiday season.

Just how far have concerns over political correctness around the holiday season gone? This year, Governor Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island called the state's 17-foot Christmas tree a "holiday tree," and received much criticism for doing so. He has since defended his use of the term by arguing that it appeals to the religiously diverse state without offending people of other non-Christian faiths. To change the name of the iconic Christmas tree, however, is absolutely ridiculous, as it is not even a symbol of the holiday season for other religions. After all, it is a Christmas decoration. This being said, the Christmas tree has also become something of a cultural symbol for peace and joy, which are supposed to be shared around the holiday season. Why are we trying so hard not to offend others during the holidays that we overlook what holidays are actually about? Generosity and kindness—these are the things that people of all religions should embrace.

One major assertion during the holiday season that crosses the line is that the "Merry Christmas" greeting ought to be altered to "Happy Holidays." Supporters of this opinion argue that it should be made to establish that Christianity is not the assumed dominant denomination in the United States. This declaration is an oversimplification. More than 90 percent of Americans celebrate Christmas. As two Americans, we can promise you that the last thing on our minds when we wish a "Merry Christmas" to others

is a secret agenda to convert them to Christianity. This expression is merely a timeless saying that has been ingrained in our culture; it is nothing more than a way to spread the good tidings of the season. So why should we be forced to change it to a different expression that holds less sentimental feeling?

In fact, earlier this month, I (Emma) was asked by my choir teacher to change the lyrics of the famous Christmas song "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" to "We Wish You a Happy Holiday." The intention was the same as Governor Chafee's: to not affront anyone not Christian. I found it shocking and inappropriate, however, that we were being forced to go as far as changing the words of a classic Christmas song in order to avoid a possible controversy at BLS. It is silly to even suggest modifying those words on account of such a fear, since the carol does not ostracize other religions in any way. The carol is merely a cultural song intended to wish everyone to be healthy during the holiday season. I find it sad, almost pathetic, that society has become so contentious over minute issues, and for no rightful reason.

The concept of political correctness begets more trouble than the "problems" it critiques. It is a foolish term that exaggerates certain minor aspects of culture and tradition, depicting them as detrimental to society when they should just be accepted as harmless. This is especially true when it is applied to Christmas. Disputing how to acknowledge the holiday season in the United States is in fact counterproductive. Good sentiments and omnipresent joy are clouded by unnecessary argument, which is certainly not what the holiday season is about.

A & E

First Course

By GERALDINE VITTINI, II
A&E EDITOR

A hush fell over the grand hall when the Santa-hat-clad emcee stood on her podium. Parents' eyes darted around the auditorium, trying to catch a glance from their children, proud smiles lighting up their faces. Boston Latin School's Holiday Music Night on Thursday, redolent with timeless Christmas tunes and regal classical pieces, was a celebration of the talents of both the younger choirs and the veteran ensembles of Chamber Choir and Concert Choir. Not to be outshined, performances by the Beginning, Training, Philharmonic and Concert String Orchestras, highlighted with accom-

plished soloists, were demonstrations of their skill on the violin, viola, cello and bass.

Adrenaline is never in short supply in the minutes leading up to performances, and the tension was palpable as choir members filed onto the precariously narrow risers. There is always a lull, a sense of anticipation, before any of the conductors, Mr. Ryan Snyder, Ms. Kristen George or Ms. Zarni Dewet, raise their arms—the expectancy on each choir member's face now perfectly evident—and begin the wild frenzy of movement that directs the choir's voices through each note and dynamic of a song. The subtle melancholy of "My Favorite Things" by the BLS Treble Choir, the majesty

of "Kyrie" by the BLS Chamber Choir and even the humor of "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" by the BLS Class VI Choir were all beautifully executed by both the performers and conductors.

Of course, the vocal prowess was well complemented by the instrumentals of the BLS orchestras, from the Beginning Strings to Concert Strings, demonstrating months of hard work and determination. "Scheherazade," a light, entrancing piece with a sinuous and entrancing violin solo by B. Kim (I) from Rimsky-Korsakov's 1888 classic, was superbly played by the BLS Concert Strings. "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Gustav Holst, conducted by Ms. Susan Shipley, is a sad, plaintive piece performed by the BLS Training String Orchestra perfectly suited for the coming iciness of winter. Even "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah, sung by the BLS Concert Choir and accompanied by the flawless Concert String Orchestra, was resplendent.

That Thursday night, the auditorium was filled with the music of the holidays, whether it was soft and graceful or imperial and thundering. The strings and the voices of BLS's musicians exemplify the dedication each student commits to the pursuit of form and harmony—both parents and instructors alike ensure this. And in the end, when the last note had been sung and the last measure played, the three hours were all worth it to see the accomplishments of each individual student musician.



ORCHESTRA FOLKS PLAYING THEIR HEARTS OUT

The progressing bands are always a treat to see; it is almost like watching the young students grow up and blossom into fully fledged musicians, building their confidence along with their skill. By the time the Symphonic Band got on stage, our expectations had been raised to dangerous heights. We were not to be disappointed, though, and Symphonic Band lived up to those. Also playing was wind ensemble, a new group made up from the best of the senior band which raised the crowd to their feet with the vaudevillian "Flava", which showed their musical prowess through ever-changing time signatures.

One of the highlights of the show was Big Band. Ben Moss' solo in the song "Eccllesiastics" knocked the audience off its feet and propelled the concert forward into the next section: BLS singing groups outside of the choruses, which had performed on the previous night.

Most people at BLS would reply, when prompted, that they love the Wolfettes and Wolftones. But at the concert both groups were still able to amaze and impress their audiences. Especially impressive was the performance

of the Nicki Minaj song Superbass, a song which includes rap verses done to the nines by the lovely and talented Annie McDonnell and Abby Schuliger. The Wolftones likewise stopped the hall by choosing to sing a song that they must have known would cause the audience to erupt into cheers like they were Elvis: the Backstreet Boys' "I Want it That Way". The solos by Cole Hermida and Kevin Mayer could not have been more spot on, perfectly affecting the boy-band persona.

Gospel Choir, still less than 2 years old in its current form, performed the magnificent "In the Sanctuar".

By the final Gospel Choir song, the group had warmed up into singing their tunes with the power and movement that their genre requires.

Show Choir closed out the concert; in this era of Glee, show choirs have a lot to live up to if they want to wow their audiences, but BLS Show Choir proved they were up to the challenge..

This was a beautiful evening, and we hope in the future everyone will decide to stay through the entire concert: because there is no group performing that you can ever afford to miss.

Spotlight Mr. Snyder



BPSARTS.ORG

By GERALDINE VITTINI
A&E EDITOR

With a meticulous eye for music and a rigorous work ethic, Mr. Ryan Snyder is a prime example of the gravity student musicians place on their work. As both BLS choirs and orchestras know, Mr. Snyder places an utmost importance in making sure the slightest nuance and dynamic is true to the music, ensuring a perfect harmony among each voice group or instrument. Mr. Snyder shows true passion in conducting, his hands rising and falling dramatically and the determination evident in his expressions.

In each rehearsal, Mr. Snyder hones the music until it is concert-ready; he is notorious among choir students for "grading" each rehearsal, so as to inform us on our readiness for concerts. With enthusiasm that can only come from someone who loves music, he instructs each voice group over the particulars in a song, ensuring it is flawless. Mr. Snyder frequently changes parts of a song to up its appeal, or to add extra drama to the overall piece. Mr. Snyder always sees room for improvement, changing things even on the day of a concert to maximize the melody of a piece.

As director for the BLS Chamber Choir, Concert Choir and Treble Choir, Mr. Snyder oversees most of the vocal ensembles of the school. For 2011's Holiday Concert on Thursday, Mr. Snyder showcased a wide variety of both traditional choral and contemporary pieces, like Handel's Hallelujah Chorus and Schubert's Kyrie, and Josephine Poelintz's City Called Heaven and Audrey Snyder's A New Day. Mr. Snyder also, in accordance to the season, added holiday-themed music, like with What Cheer by William Walton.

While choirs at BLS are large (and very loud), and pieces can be tricky to manage, Mr. Ryan Snyder shows adept skill in administering both the ensembles and the music. His energy for the music can clearly be heard during concerts, his energy never wavering during a performance. Mr. Snyder epitomizes the BLS dedication to music and the arts.

Capricorn

You are so amazing and beautiful and funny, and everyone loves you. You smell nice and I like your shoes. P.S. I will propose to you soon with an onion ring and we will adopt magnificent children.

Aquarius

Mr. Rochester, stop being so aloof and distant. Do that thing and do it now!

Pisces

Delete that World of Warcraft account, buy new clothes and ask that hot person out. Your mother and your computer screen will thank you.

Horoscopes

Aries

This month you will be approached by a tall, blond man. He will give you an envelope filled with yen. Then he will tell you to invest in Microsoft with this money. DON'T DO IT. RIP STEVE JOBS 4EVA

Taurus

You might get the intense, unshakable feeling to sleep on the floor. Well, do it, and wear your most expensive clothing.

Gemini

Channel a tall, flamboyant man this month. It'll bring you good luck and plenty of simply FABulous compliments on your glittery accessories.

Cancer

QUICK! GIVE THAT WOMAN CPR!

Leo

That is the ugliest meat dress I've ever seen. You have the prettiest hair. You are so much better than Regina.

Virgo

When all seems lost, the gods will turn you

into a nightingale and you shall fly away.

Libra

Cream or milk? Whole wheat wrap or white? To be or not to be? Make that decision and make it fast, because it will cost you.

Scorpio

When the time comes, it shall be you and your progeny that lead your people out of the darkness and into the glory of foreverness.

Sagittarius

"What she order? Fish fillet?" Keep this in mind.

A & E

'Twilight' Goes Wild



IT GETS MUCH RAUNCHIER, FOLKS

GERALDINE VITTINI, II
A&E EDITOR

I am going to be completely honest: I really wanted to see *Breaking Dawn Part I*, the last movie of this magical saga, and I am wholeheartedly ashamed to admit that. I read the first book when I was an overly excited sixie, the second when I was bored at my grandmother's house in New York (why she had *New Moon* is something I do not care to explore), and I struggled to finish *Eclipse*, the third book, before abandoning this foolhardy project 200 pages in. I have never read the fourth and longest book, on which *Breaking Dawn Part I* is based. In other words, I was totally prepared.

If you are one of the precious few that has but an inkling of what this tragic romance is all about, it is basically the tale of a clumsy teenage girl named Bella who falls in love with a 109-year-old vampire named Edward with "breath like sun-drenched meadows" and skin

"like lustrous alabaster" (I did not make that up). Because, naturally, that is the immediate reaction of most teen girls—to swoon for a century-old mythical creature. They proclaim their everlasting love to one another and stare into each other's eyes a lot, since that is their favorite extracurricular activity. In this latest installment of the breathtaking narrative, Bella becomes pregnant with a demon-vampire-human-hybrid baby after one supremely awkward sexual montage and is nearly killed while giving birth. To save the life of his doe-eyed Happy Meal—I mean, soul mate—Edward changes her into a vampire and the movie ends with Vampire Bella (Vampella?) opening her ruby-red eyes after the transformation, which involves mascara and lots of hair-brushing.

Now I was expecting to watch *Breaking Dawn* to boo and hiss and throw my popcorn at the screen like everyone else, but this movie was different. It was actually entertaining. Granted, I was suppressing hysterical

giggles throughout the first half, in which Bella and Edward infamously "break the bed" (cue the sexual puns and winks) and lovingly gaze into each other's eyeballs (I told you it was their favorite activity) for what seems like an eternity. There were a lot of weaknesses in this movie: a shamelessly long cameo of Stephanie Meyer, the genius behind the series, an endless repertoire of romantic instrumental music that swelled dramatically whenever Bella and Edward touched, the werewolves who communicated telepathically and sounded like Autobots, and the terrible acting of Taylor Lautner, who demonstrated the proper way to run while angry and shirtless.

But there were, however, scenes in which the director Bill Condon (who directed the Academy Award-winning *Chicago*) delicately handles the more ridiculous aspects of the book. The Edward-Jacob interactions, once thinly veiled attempts to hide their apparent homosexual feelings towards each other, now display the nuances between this truly harrowing love triangle. Unrequited love can either be played splendidly, or turn into a cheap farce. Condon demonstrates his skill in manipulating Meyer's often one-dimensional story into an actual love story that does not over-exaggerate every emotion for easy sympathy. Kristen Stewart, who has displayed prolific talent in keeping the same facial expression throughout all the movies (even while "breaking the bed" probably), was in fact not as static as some of the other characters were, and played the part of the swooning newlywed with dignity and passion. *Breaking Dawn Part I* was much better than the previous movies, and it broke weekend box office records. But as an adaptation of a story about a girl in love with a sparkly vampire, you can't really expect too much.

Spotlight

Will Corbett



FACEBOOK.COM

BY ABIGAIL MAYER, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The world only has one Will Corbett. Okay, that's not true, as those of you who have Ms. Freemen have seen for yourselves. Yet despite the multitude of William Corbets in the world and the scary similarities each of them may share, the William Noah Corbett of Boston Latin School's homeroom 116 has a few unique qualities.

At a glance, Will looks like a white, 5' 8" male with curly brown hair, who is perhaps wearing a purple or gray sweater. When I met him, I learned after a conversation or two that Will is a singer, an atheist, a performer and an insomniac. After creeping his Facebook a bit, I also learned he writes raps, likes Bill Maher, knows Hebrew and has a Yahoo email. But it was not until I spent time with Will that I learned that none of these things on their own can truly define him.

Will is not just the President of Wolftones and co-captain of the Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe; he is a person you can turn to on your worst of days. If you come to him with a problem, he won't just spit off the generic "yeah, that sucks." He will genuinely consider your problem and try to help you find a solution. He also puts an enormous amount of time into arranging music and organizing Improv shows to ensure that both groups are prepared to perform. He takes the same care and consideration when facing any situation in life. Be it initiating a discussion in class, or tutoring his eleven-year-old sister, he is always analyzing and working to move in a positive direction.

Will Corbett is a person who can take a phrase, manipulate it and spew out some clever play on words. He will make a sandwich and refuse to eat it until both sides of the bread are perfectly coated with peanut butter or jelly. He will spend 20 minutes showering and then feel bad about the water he's wasted. He'll spend five minutes staring into his locker and then realize when he's home that he's forgotten the one thing he needed. He'll drive an hour out of his way to make sure his friend can get home from camp. He'll stay up late if someone needs his help with homework.

I guess I'm just trying to say that Will is a person. He's quirky and nice, and he genuinely cares. Maybe he doesn't even know you yet, but if you went up to him and said, "I really need help with this and you are the only person who can help me," he would give you a hand. Will is a person who, deep down, just wants everyone to be happy and kind to one another. He might not have started a charity, or saved a whale, but he thinks and cares so deeply about everything. He is one of those people who is just a genuinely incredible friend.

Heaven on Earth

BY MARY-KATE LAMPRON, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As I was sitting in Mrs. Gray's eleventh grade English class last year frantically writing down all of the vocabulary words I did not know from one of Seamus Heaney's masterpieces, a boy raised his hand and questioned why we had to know the dictionary entry for every word in the poem. She read the irritated faces of her students and explained simply that she wanted us to appreciate Seamus Heaney in the same way she did, and we could not do that if we did not know the vocabulary. She knew that answer would not suffice and simply added that just how "foodies" are obsessed with food, she is obsessed with Seamus Heaney. That moment I realized that is exactly what I am—not obsessed with Seamus Heaney—but a foodie.

I thoroughly enjoy food more than any person should. I am interested in the preparation of foods, the way they are eaten, the traditions behind each kind of food, the history behind each type of cuisine and most importantly, the taste. One of the best places that I have ever dined at is a hidden jewel in South Boston: Café Porto Bello. The courses I have eaten there have forever changed my expectations for Italian food.

I began my meal with a tasty antipasto that was unlike any garden salad I've ever had with fresh carrots, toma-



ITALIAN FOOD STRAIGHT FROM THE GODS

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toes, onions and iceberg lettuce, and it was all topped with house dressing, creamy and delicious.

I was in eating heaven as I was serenaded with Italian music. Before I knew it, my next course of eggplant rollatini surrounded by homemade pesto sauce arrived. My mouth watered as I enjoyed each scrumptious bite.

When the waitress delivered my main course, my mouth hung open and my heart sank. Everything seemed to be moving in slow motion. The aroma of garlic, combined with broccoli and chicken, teased my nose as I anticipated my first bite. The flavor of the chicken was rich and by the end of the meal, I

was practically licking the plate.

I did not think my stomach could handle any more surprises until the waitress described a classic Sicilian dessert: the cannoli. The cold ricotta cheese was light and fluffy, and it complemented the crisp shell perfectly. This delicious treat was the perfect ending to two hours in heaven.

If you ever find yourself on East Broadway on Mondays through Saturdays between 11 A.M. and 9 P.M., stop by Café Porto Bello for some traditional Italian cuisine. This restaurant fully deserves five stars. By the time you leave, you will be full to your ears and planning your next visit to go back!

A & E

Celebrating Xmas the Right Way

**By EHIS OSIFO, II
& KASSANDRA ALVES, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tis the season to be merry. Everyone knows this includes stuffing your face with seasonal baked goods in a variety of holiday flavors. To really get the cheer and goodwill spreading, we are featuring SWEET and Luberto's Pastry Shop, bakeries famous for their seasonal flavors and all-around daily classics, just in time for the holidays and December break!

SWEET

Locations in Downtown Boston, Harvard Square, Newbury Street and Back Bay.

SWEET is a cupcake bakery known for its unique twists on common flavors and flawless renditions of the classics. SWEET may have a feminine appearance with tickle-me-pink walls and furniture and sparkly Charlie Brown Christmas trees—all in the holiday spirit. The cupcakes, however, are an entirely different story. These little slices of heaven may look angelic, but their flavors really pack a punch. Overall, the cupcakes are moist, decadent and definitely worth the \$3.25 price.

Take a seat, ladies and gentlemen, for this first cupcake—I seriously think you cannot eat this thing standing up. An all-time favorite, this tiny treat will send your taste buds on a whirlwind of pleasure. Black Forest is a chocolate cupcake filled with cherry ganache (cherries mixed with chocolate and cream) and topped with fluffy whipped cream icing and a maraschino cherry. Nothing like a cherry on top to get you in the mood! This moist treat will melt in your mouth, sending you on a euphoric trip to the world of decadent desserts.

This holiday favorite will make you want to cuddle up with your special someone in the middle of a snow fort next to a cozy fire, squished together on a love seat. The Eggnog Cupcake is literally the delicious holiday drink packed into a pastry! (But no alcohol folks...) It is SWEET's own cupcake batter infused with eggnog. It's topped with a butter-cream frosting and a dash of nutmeg, all garnished with a cookie straw. Here is something to toast to! This fluffy "cup" of perfection will have you floating on cloud nine, soaring through the world of amazing goodness.

And last, but certainly not least, my all-time favorite—so it must be the best—Red Velvet! Seriously, I would wine and dine on this cupcake. I would want to meet its parents and ask for their permission to marry it. This classic, from its crimson-colored cupcake batter to its creamy buttercream topping, is pure perfection inside and out. Not one flaw. Well, maybe one: its deliciousness is over too soon! (This is especially troublesome if you are like me and tend to inhale your pastries instead of actually eating them.) Red Velvet is a delicious Dutch chocolate cake dyed to that delectable scarlet hue we have all grown to love, complete with a shaved chocolate garnish and topped with a gooey cream cheese frosting that will have you licking your fingers. You cannot go wrong with this cupcake, and luckily, unlike the other flavors, you can get it all year round!

Luberto's Pastry Shop
208 Broadway Street, Revere.

While there are multiple pastry shops throughout Greater Boston, few



RING IN THE HOLIDAYS

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can beat the pastries at Luberto's. This bakery has some of the best pastries on its side of the Sumner Tunnel. There are a multitude of baked goods made fresh every day, including Italian cookies, cakes of a variety of flavors, pies and cannolis.

The Checkerboard Cake is by far one of my favorite pastries that Luberto's makes. A lot of detail goes into creating this masterpiece. Made from chocolate and vanilla cake cut into small squares and placed in a checkerboard-like pattern, this dessert also has delicious homemade vanilla frosting between each little square. It is then topped with a tower of whipped cream and sprinkled with crushed walnuts. It is just an inch wide and four squares tall, but it is certainly enough to put you in a heavenly sugar-induced coma.

The Black and White Cookies are fun for a delicious holiday snack. They

come in either a chocolate or vanilla cake as the base and are topped half with chocolate frosting and half with vanilla frosting. It is such a simple pastry to make, but Luberto's makes them the best. The cake is moist and rich in flavor, and the frosting is as sweet and creamy as frosting could ever be.

Then there are the Éclairs. When you think about it, who can really ruin an éclair? Nevertheless, Luberto's éclairs go above and beyond the competition. The éclair's light and fluffy dough, stuffed with a delicious homemade boiled cream and topped with layer of chocolate frosting, could never be complained about. The only thing that makes these éclairs better is their size; the pastry is enormous. The real cherry on top is Luberto's Pastry Shop's affordable prices, which is great for those low-budget teens who want delicious holiday pastries over Christmas break.

Golden Globes

**By NAOMI LEONARD, I
FORUM EDITOR**

Last Thursday the nominees for the 69th annual Golden Globe Awards were announced. There were few surprises. All the movies that got nominated were movies people had been saying would get nominated for months now.

Of course it is important to acknowledge the fact that the Golden Globes are really just a warm up for the Oscars. If you look at the list of movies just nominated for best Drama you'll see the list of films that will make up most, if not all, of the Academy's list. The sad thing is, the Golden Globes do often nominate movies that are considered "long shots" for Oscar noms. This is concerning because only twelve movies were acknowledged by the Golden Globes for Drama. Only a dozen movies dominate the nomination categories of best lead and supporting actor or actress, best screenplay, best director, and best film. So if the usual pattern continues, the Academy will be recognizing even fewer films.

Does this mean fewer quality movies are being made these days? Possibly. Hollywood has frequently blamed the recession for its inability to make great films lately. This does make sense, but that really only accounts for big-budget films, which the majority of the nominees are not. Indie pictures have gained hard-won respect in the award shows, but it's still begrudgingly. Is it possible that only a handful of good films have come out this year if you're including all indie movies that did not have wide

distribution? Most likely not.

Every award season it seems as though the list of movies that will be considered is set in stone. There are usually one or two odds-on-favorites that nearly sweep the Oscars or Golden Globes. This year, the frontrunner is *The Help*. Naturally, *The Help* has a strong stable in the best lead and best supporting actress categories. The *Help*'s Viola Davis is up for Best Actress in a Motion Picture-Drama, and fellow cast members Octavia Spencer, and newcomer Jessica Chastain are both in the competition for the Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture category. It was rumored for awhile that Emma Stone's performance might garner some recognition this award season, however she never made it out of the gate. Without a nomination for a Golden Globe for her portrayal of a spunky young writer she'll most probably be out of the running when it comes to a Oscar nomination. If she does get lucky, she'll be long shot.

On January 15th I strongly suggest watching The 69th Annual Golden Globes. It is, as Ellen Degeneres said when she hosted the show several years ago, "after the Oscars, the Emmys, and the Grammys, THE most important award show on television." Watch it so you can predict what will happen a month later when the Academy Awards are broadcasted. Or watch it because, in a way, it's one of the only major show that gives Comedy and Drama their time to shine for both Movies and Television. So grab your remote, program your Tevo, and place some bets, because award season is only just getting started.

**BY LUCY BURKE, I
A&E EDITOR**

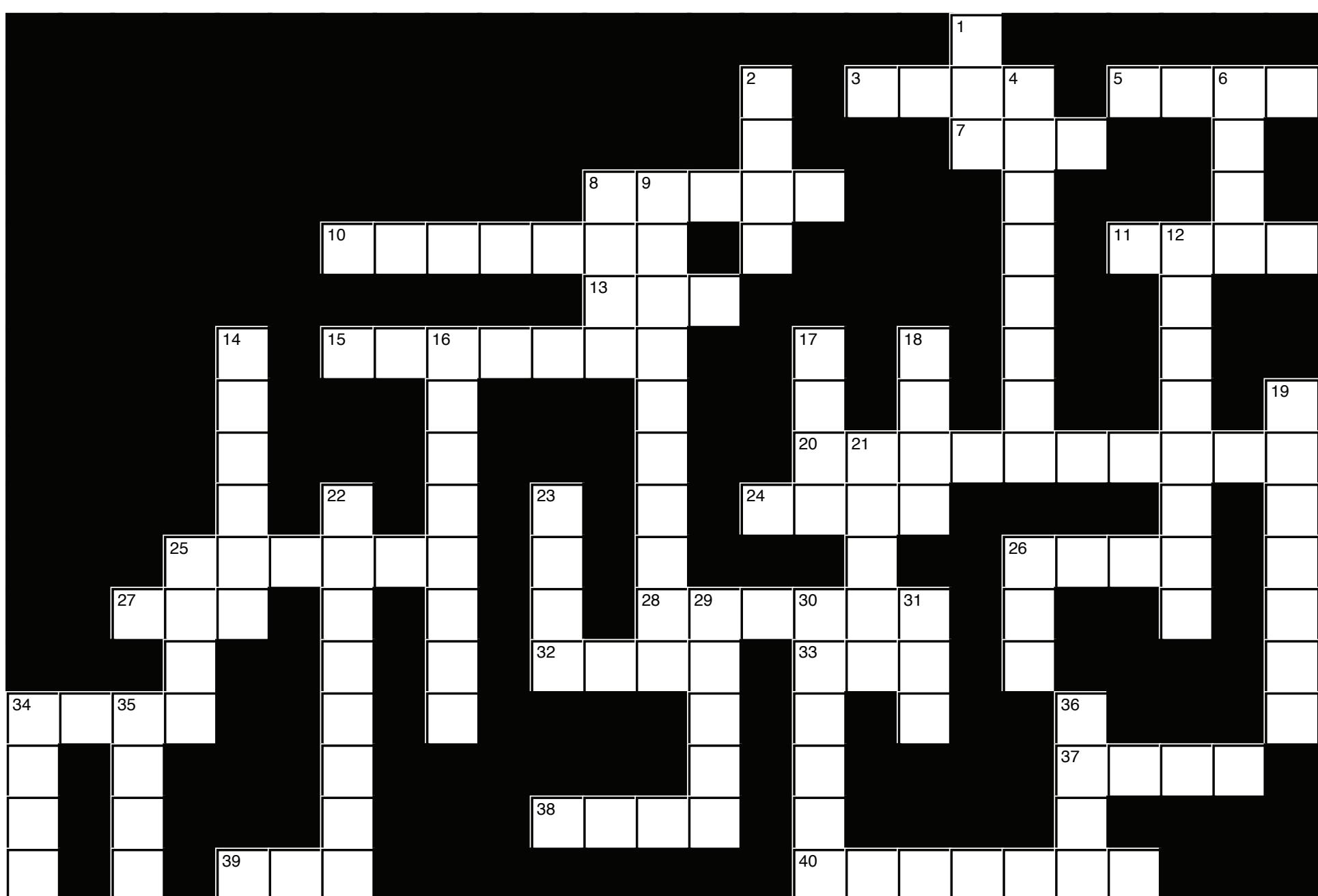
It's that time of year, and as usual television is getting in the spirit of Christmas. And it really is just Christmas they're talking about, despite the "Happy Holidays" and the obligatory one character on any show that celebrates something other than Christmas. NBC and Fox brought us two festive specials this year, parts of which should be returned for store credit.

Now, I love Glee as much as the next person: it's funny and peppy and it's fun sometimes to watch pretty people belt their feelings. But I do recognize Glee's flaws: undeveloped and archetypal characters and ridiculous plotlines and dialogue ad sappiness. The writers decided that this episode would be a good place to showcase all of those. Rachel is a real pill for the majority of the episode, leading Finn the say that he is dating "Kim Kardashian". Well spoken, Finn Hudson. Rachel annoyed me so much in this episode that I ended up skipping through every song she sang, which was pretty much all of them. And it turns out watching Glee without the music makes you listen to the dialogue, which is something you just shouldn't do. The episode included a awful faux-Christmas Special with a borderline Alvin and the Chipmunks rendition of "Let it Snow" by Kurt and Blaine. When they inevitable found a way to give back and do the TV special the glee club travelled to a homeless shelter and performed "Do They Know it's Christmas?" with some eye-candy of cute homeless kids in the background. The episode had a weirdly Christian focus

A 'Gleeful' Christmas

in these PC times, although that can be forgiven by the fact that it takes place in Ohio. But the biblical reading was a little much for me, and did everyone forget that Rachel is Jewish? The episode was sweet, but the urge to give everyone a happy ending got the better of the Glee writers, as it so often does.

Community, probably my favorite show on TV right now, took a stab at the Christmas episode as well, with mixed results. The episode was named "Regional Holiday Music", which we discover a few minutes in is both a reference to the fact that this episode is a semi-musical, and to the fact that they will spend the entire episode subtly and not-so-subtly making fun of Glee. There were many slaps at Glee's constant discussion of regionals ("What the hell are regionals anyway, and why are they always talking about it?") and their habit of challenging deep-set beliefs though song. The episode centers around the Christmas pageant, which the study group is seduced one by one into filling in for after getting the former glee club disbanded. Making the episode a musical is where the main issue lies. No matter how good they are (see Scrubs), they rarely further the plot or develop the characters in any way. The songs ranged from amazing (Troy and Abed's "Christmas Infiltration") to fillers like "Glee." While there were some hilarious moments (Britta's "Awkward Song") the songs generally took away from what would have been a funny premise. And for a show that spends so much time making fun of other shows, it end up seeming like it is one of them pretty often. At least they mention Annie is Jewish.



Across

3. shopping center
5. assigned job
7. U.S. Grant's Wartime enemy
8. spongebob's intelligent woodland creature friend
10. eminem tells you to lose _____
11. india's continent
13. not healthy; slang for "cool"
15. made from the best stuff on earth
20. Futurama's resident fuzzy-slipper-wearing mad scientist
24. skirt edges

25. having rows
26. water in colombia
27. You dirty ____; gardening tool
28. Chicago the Musical: Pop, Six, Squish, Ah-Ah,
_____, Lipschitz
32. plow animals; rhymes with "toxin"
33. hair goo
34. ____ Kudrow of "Friends"
37. figure skating jump; triple ____
38. patrick ____
39. thickness; tissus or paper
40. ____ lightning; Danny Zucco's

Down

1. "____ That Jazz"
2. baking ____; don't confuse with powder
4. BLS girls are not allowed to wear ____
6. hindu dress
8. earth
9. I pledge ____ to the flag
12. how to get to heaven, according to zeppelin
14. matricidal red-suspenders-wearing british infant
16. the best kind of yu-gi-oh
17. "you are my ____ now" says Edward while sparkling in the sun
18. yours and mine
19. "I ate his liver with fava beans and a nice ____"
21. love, in florence
22. The King
23. Simpsons bus driver
25. frat boys love this; roman attire
26. float like a butterfly, sting like a bee
29. to deduce
30. best holiday drink ever
31. bullfight shout
34. betcha can't eat just one
35. hide-and-____
36. japanese alchoholic beverage

Sudokus

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9	1	8	4	2	3	6 7
5		9	6	4		
6	8	2		5		
4	7	9	5	8	1	2 3
3	7		4	6		
	6	4		7		
8			2		1	4

Easy

	6		7	1
9	1		7	3
3			8	6
6		8	2	
8		7		9
2		9	6	5
		1		5
	5			
	3			7

Diabolical

SPORTS

Striving for States

BY MOLLY MCCORMICK, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Over the years, the Girls' Basketball Team has not been one of the most successful or popular teams at Boston Latin. This year, however, the girls are striving to change that. The team is focused on its goal of having a .500 or higher season in order to secure a spot in the Massachusetts state tournament for the first time in years. With all of their experience, speed and overall improvement as a team, this goal seems reachable.

Senior captains Laura Sullivan (I) and Courtney Hoban (I) realize that pure skill and speed are not enough to land the team its spot. The girls recognize the fact that the hard work and dedication of the entire team will play an extremely important role. "We know our goal isn't going to come very easily, but we are will-

ing to work to reach it," says Sullivan. The team's hard work does not go unnoticed. Practicing six days a week, the girls focus on conditioning, skills training and drills. Along with the team goal, some girls have set goals of their own. Take Clodagh Lane (I) for example, "I'm trying to play professional basketball in China; I love China and basketball, but mostly China." It is a team full of hope.

The team is built with a solid balance of upper and lower classmen. The starting line-up is comprised of three seniors, a junior and sophomore, Maggie Mulligan (III). Mulligan, a six-foot-three mixture of Taylor Swift and Hilary Swank, utilizes her height and natural skill in the sport to dominate the low post alongside Sullivan. Mouth guard-sporting junior, Mary DeMoura (II), was moved to point guard at the beginning of this season and has handled the change with ease. "I

can pretty much play anywhere," boasts DeMoura, "I watched the movie Double Teamed when I was little, and so I'm really good at basketball."

The Wolfpack will be facing a lot of tough competition this season. Starting off the season with a tough loss to Brookline, the girls quickly bounced back and defeated Waltham at home. It is this type of determination that the team plans to harness and use throughout the season. "It would really be a dream come true for me if we could make it to states!" exclaims Hoban. The team has been working exceptionally hard since the start of the season and plans to continue. Hopefully, they are able to do so and make Courtney's dream come true. So if you are looking to watch a team full of determination and grit, look no further and find time in your day to make it to a girls' basketball game...please.

Band of Warriors



WANT SOME COOKIES?

BY ISAAC BUCK, I
SPORTS EDITOR

Winter comes, bringing with it snow (hint, hint), basketball (now that the NBA got over themselves), Christmas break (not soon enough), and wrestling. A sport that verges on a cult obsession, wrestling has developed into one of the pre-eminent programs at our school. Captains Joseph McCourt (I), Baudy Mazaev (I), and David Ho (I) have led the team to a 2-2 record (1-0 in the Dual County League) to start the season. Although this may not be that impressive on paper, consider that of the two losses,

one was by 3 points and the other was to North Andover, the defending state champions. And of course, there are the two resounding wins over Belmont and Newton South. These results prove that the Latin squad can grapple with the best teams out there.

Aside from the outstanding team successes, there have been a number of individual standouts. Leading from the front are McCourt, who is 3-1 in his matches, and Ho, who stands undefeated at 4-0. Ho has had a lock on his weight class since the ninth grade. Seniors McCourt, Ho, Mazaev, Jason Luc (I), Anvy Tran (I), Karon Coleman (I), Seth Occeus

(I), and Kimberly Gilmore (I) are all ready to prove themselves in their final year. "We're all going to states," proudly proclaims Gilmore. But on this senior-heavy team, is there any hope for the future? Of course! A number of younger wrestlers have stepped up this year to give the team hope. A welcome addition to the Varsity team is Edson Charles (IV) who, in his first year of wrestling, has also posted a 4-0 record. But for the time being, the seniors rule the mats. When asked if he enjoys playing, McCourt says, "We don't play, we brawl." It is this mentality that allows Latin to dominate. They are not a team of athletes, but a band of warriors.

Fencing Soon to Join Wolfpack

BY JAKE ZHANG, II
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

On Thursday, December 8, the fencing club held its first expo in the dining hall afterschool as part of a school-wide effort to build publicity for its budding varsity team. The expo, which ran for an hour, featured Jake Zhang (II), Angel Jin (II), Alicia Zhang (V) and Maureen Woodward from Boston University. They were all donned with protective gear and demonstrated several fencing bouts in full equipment in front of a crowd of spectators. Jason and Elif Sachs were the coaches of the new team from the Moe Wen Fencing Club in Somerville, MA, who were also present to answer questions and explain the rules and history behind the honored sport. Fencing is set to become Boston Latin School's newest school sport, and it will begin competing against other Massachusetts high schools

including Boston University Academy, the Commonwealth School and Concord-Carlisle High School.

Fencing can be traced back to the Renaissance, which was originally a means of settling arguments between two aristocrats or military officers. Since then, it has been in every Summer Olympic game since 1896. Today, fencing is regulated internationally by the Federation Internationale d'escrime (FIE), which also organizes the fencing events in the Olympics. The U.S. Fencing Association (USFA) governs fencing in the United States. Fencing is also part of the modern pentathlon, while wheelchair fencing (often called jousting) is offered at the national, international and Paralympic levels. Fencing is a diverse sport, encompassing athletes from under ten years to over 70 years old.

Fencing is also popular among colleges and universities and is part of the

National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA). Colleges in Massachusetts that compete in fencing include Boston College, Brandeis University and Harvard University. Seven of the eight Ivy League schools have fencing teams.

The effort to establish fencing as a school sport at BLS has been hindered for several years because of its relative unpopularity and the school's strict no-weapons policy (since fencing swords are classified as mock weapons). The crusade, however, began to gain momentum soon after Moe Wen Fencing Club, which had helped build a fencing program in the Commonwealth School, decided to do the same for BLS. In October, Headmaster Mooney Teta also expressed interest in establishing a fencing team by setting aside \$800 for the school year. Starting a fencing program at BLS would make it the first school in the Boston Public School system to do so, in true "Sumus Primi" fashion.

Spotlight

Claire Zimmerman



BY RACHEL WOLFSFELT, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Raised on the mean streets of Charlestown, Claire Zimmerman had a tough life. Semi-annual trips range from exotic places such as Thailand, Atlantis, Belize and weekend trips to the wintry slopes of rural Vermont. These trips took a toll on her friendships in the cut-throat halls of Buckingham Browne and Nichols Elementary School. Whenever she came back, she would receive dirty looks because of her newly cornrowed hair. Growing up five houses away from each other, we have always been attached at the hip. Daily activities in the Training Field Park, the local hangout, have influenced Claire's fierce qualities. On scorching hot days, I was always jealous when Claire was able to zip off half of her Boy's Gap cargo pants; she had a pair in every color. Whenever she got hurt, Claire would always laugh the pain away. Known to the townies for thirteen years as one of the two fat girls who walked their dogs, it was not until eighth grade that Claire made her transformation. Terrified that she was going to become a yuppie, she turned to volleyball.

Since making varsity at the end of her eighth grade season, Claire has proven her status on the Boston Latin School volleyball court. She has become the favorite player of the infamous Coach Kai Yuen, and her nickname of "The Hurricane" proves that she is a force to be reckoned with on the court. As a middle hitter, her ability to swing her arm and strike the ball into her opponent's side has sent a few too many teams home in tears. Claire's victories on the courts have granted her DCL All-Star titles in the past three years, MVP in the tenth and eleventh grades, and many mentions in newspapers around Boston. Claire was captain of the varsity squad in her eleventh and twelfth grade seasons, which reflects her true leadership capabilities. This girl knows when it is time for business. When a storm is coming, beware of Hurricane Claire.

Her dedication to the sport is not only exhibited at school, but also on her club team at SMASH volleyball in Newton. She has traveled to Reno, NV and Atlanta, GA to compete at the national level. She has also been a part of the indoor track team, and her new passion for throwing javelin will lead her to great success in the spring. You can also always catch her snowboarding on the slopes during the winter.

So, the next time you see her laughing through the hallway, don't be frightened by her beauty and height, stop to chat with her. Maybe ask her for her phenomenal red velvet recipe or inquire about her role as the Queen of Park Drive. Claire's success at BLS will no doubt lead her to whatever she wants to do in life; her dedication will help her accomplish her goals. Wherever she goes, I hope she is somewhere near me because, after all, she is the honey mustard to my dippin' chicken (R.I.P. Friendly's) and we have serious withdrawal issues. Cheers to the dinks! Love you Craire, go get 'em!

Spotlight Jack Duggan



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BY JAMES BURKE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The last name "Duggan" has echoed through the hallways of BLS for many years, starting with Joe "Big Bad" Duggan Sr., Joe "Not as Bad But Just as Big" Duggan Jr., Dan "See Me in the Weight Room" Duggan (who was known for having a chest with a circumference of around 3 feet), and last but not least the notorious Connor "Salty Sea Dog" Duggan. The Duggan legacy is a prestigious one, filled with many manly and muscular football players. That all changed when the fall of '06 rolled around and introduced to the brick walls of BLS the youngest of the Duggan males, Jack.

In '06, you could find this kid with a Justin Bieber hair cut, sitting on the 38 Bus with his long time buddy Chris "Lights Out" Lydon, who is known for his jump shot since his glory days of Parkway Travel Basketball, when he was coached by the legend Jack "I Thought I Smelled a Duggan" O'Neill. Although bearing a striking resemblance to Harry Potter if he threw on a pair of glasses, Jack's persona did not reflect his athletic abilities at all. If you saw a kid wearing a T-shirt 3 sizes too big, shorts that didn't match his top uniform, and a pair of Boston Bowl socks that went above his ankles, he would be about as threatening as baby kitten. Deceiving, right? Little did opponents know that this seemingly harmless player could go past you, through you, over you, under you, around you, spin you like a top, twist you in a pretzel, eat your lunch, steal your girl and kick your dog at the same time.

Let's take a look at the man behind the hair; before he became the infamous figure we see walking through the halls. Duggan grew up on the famous Bradfield Ave. located in Roslindale, Massachusetts. The Duggan family is said to be responsible for the street sign being stolen every year and placed on a shelf up in the attic, somewhat shrine-like. The BPD is still looking into it. Jack attended Holy Name Parish School where he played for the co-ed basketball team. He led the team to a perfect 19-0 season and stated, "See first you have St. Anne's, then Gate of Heaven, then when you're done with amateur hour, you have Holy Name Parish School."

This real-life Troy Bolton is not a cocky character, as one might be inclined to be given all of the talents that Jack possesses and being captain of the basketball team. No, Jack is actually a very down to earth human being, spending most of his leisure time quoting *The Office*, chowing down on some "grilled cheese bomb", making a fake resume for actor Dave Coulier (Joey from *Full House*), or singing "Someone Like You" by Adele in his falsetto voice, with most lyrics being completely made up. "How are you friends with him?" you may ask. Whenever Jack is faced with a tough situation, he never gets in a bad mood or down on himself, he lives his life by two words: "all good" and that's why he's my best friend.

SPORTS Don't Stop Believin'

BY ALEXIA SPINNEY, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The girls' soccer team's season has come to a close with just two amazing victories under its belt. Nevertheless, twenty or so lifelong friendships formed along the journey. "It was a tough season, and we definitely deserved to win many of the games we played. We learned to work together and stick up for our teammates," says captain Lydia Burns (I). We were often mistreated by the referees, which caused angst amongst the strong and steady defense. Rachel Kelly (II) had to furiously head the ball to relieve her anger. Teresa Frappaolo (II) used her unintentional step-over move to distract the other teams and gain possession at least once during every match. And the illustrious defenders, Kelly, Frappaolo, and Diana Howat (II) played for almost every minute of the season and I speak for the team when I say that they were our pride and glory. Don't be fooled by Howat's height, she will beat you to that ball and sometimes even act as the goalie.

As for injuries, I don't even know where to start. Maddie Grover (II) even came up with a new catch phrase based off of her lovely kidney stones. She also suffered from two concussions this season. Two! Not to mention that these were the fourth and fifth concussions of her life. She really gets her head in the game. But joking aside, Grover sacrifices herself for our team, whether from the bench while she's injured or diving around in the muddy goals, we owe her a lot. She is hilarious, supportive and a great team player. Now on to the lovely Mary DeMoura (II) who stepped in for Grover, despite the fact that she is one of our best forwards and may



THE SENIORS

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have been the leading scorer throughout the season had she not stepped into the net. Her insane athletic ability and Coach Evan Nelson's commitment really shone through as she made some amazing saves as our keeper. Sadly, she injured her ankle, with bruises resembling those of surgical scars, and had to spend the remainder of the season in a boot. Nevertheless she kept up her ridiculous sense of humor and team spirit, as did Bria Fredricks (II), who was at every practice and game despite her broken knees. Kelsey Flattery (I) injured her ankle during our last game at Acton-Boxboro while exercising her silent but deadly ball stealing skills. You may find her avoiding the elevator and pushing through her injury on one crutch through the hallways. And of course we missed our one and only Anya Bowen (I) who injured her infamous knee during preseason. She made an appearance and screamed soccer-mom-esque cheers from the sidelines at many a game. If anyone has an injury that is preventing them from following their dreams be sure to ask Anya for some words of wisdom. We certainly missed Anya's leadership and insane skill

throughout the season.

Although we may have only beaten Boston Latin Academy, we definitely learned a lot over the season. We expected a better record with so many amazing players, but the soccer gods clearly don't favor us. Senior Georgie Wynn, who has been playing since 8th grade along with Cate Tompkins (I), shared that "Even though it wasn't a season full of wins, I have learned a lot from playing for BLS and will always love all of the girls on the team." Captain Lizz Jiang (I) adds with a humorous grin that "Georgie speaks the truth; our bond is strong, just like us. We are strong and independent women who play varsity soccer and we are proud of who we are." We have dealt with buses breaking down in Tyngsboro on a Wednesday night, leaving us stranded in the freezing cold, but still every night, as we pass the strangers near the Prudential Center, we make our own little party in the U.S.A. As we pull up on Avenue Louis Pasteur, we recognize that sometimes we win, but most of the time we lose, and we must never stop believing. Hold on to that feeling.

Primed to Perform

BY COLIN MURPHY, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Over the years, the Boston Latin boys' basketball team has been one of the most elite programs at our school. However this might be the year to remember, as the squad is loaded with talented upperclassmen and heavy expectations. Senior captains Jack Duggan (I) and Savaughn Dinkins (I) have been anchors for the varsity team since sophomore year and fellow captain Miles 'Franchise' Wright (II) has turned into a bright young star that may be playing basketball far past his BLS days. The captains understand just how special this season can be; as Duggan puts it, "We got an opportunity to make a dream become a reality; we won't sleep until that happens. Sleep is for the broke."

The captains aren't the only ones who will help make this a banner year for the program. Mike Wojewodzic (I), Kevin "The Germ" McCann (I), Chris Lydon (I), James "Juice" Adams (I), Elias Farrow (I), Minh Truong (I), and Brikeno Fusha (I) are all seniors that hope to make their last season count. "Coach says we can't cry to give up, we just have to cry to keep going. I've never wanted something so bad in my life. We're at the point where we want to be successful as bad as we want to breathe. If we keep this mentality and focus then we will be successful," adds Lydon. Most of the seniors have been involved in the program since eighth grade and have

worked countless hours in order to put them in a position to be successful this year. "They used to leave me the keys to lock up at the YMCA because I would be putting in so much effort in the weight room. And they knew I would be the first one there the next day to open it back up," says Fusha.

As experienced as the team is it still



LATIN DRIVING FOR A LAYUP

says McCann.

However, the focus of the program is still on this upcoming season. The team opened up with a dominating win over cross-town rival Boston Latin Academy and is taking a "one-game at a time" approach for the rest of the season. "None of us are taking a moment of this season for granted. We won't overlook an opponent nor will we back down from anyone. Winning is the motivation," says Dinkins.

The team believes they have a legitimate chance to win every game on their schedule but they do understand how important it is not to overlook anyone. "In past years, we haven't showed up for some games that we were expected to win. This year we're expected to win most, and we hope that we can accomplish that," added Truong.

It will be exciting to see where the team ends up finishing the season, as many on the team believe they can finish it off with a state title. "Obviously our main goal is to win the Dual County League championship, but if we can accomplish that as we plan to, we'll definitely look to finish off our season with a win at the Boston Garden. Failure is not an option at this point. Anything short of 22-0 is a disappointment in our eyes," says Wright. With such hefty expectations, the team will look to not disappoint the fans, but most importantly themselves. Come support the boys' pursuit of a perfect season and a hopeful state tournament run. Go Pack!

boasts a solid foundation of young players that will make an impact in the program for years to come. Celio Araujo (III), Khari "Chief" Thompson (II), Mike Rufo (II), Pat Brown (III), and Rivard Joseph (II) are all players that have showed that they can play on the varsity level. "The future is bright here at the Latin School. I've walked down the eighth and ninth grade halls looking for talent, and I definitely see some real potential for the future,"